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Should periodic drug testing be made mandatory for all law enforcement personnel?

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Subcompact cars fare poorly in new crash tests. **► PAGE 16**

ASIA



A state of emergency is declared in Bangkok. **► PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Kendrick Lamar vs. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. Lorde vs. Katy Perry. **► PAGE 20**

Man gets 30-year sentence for sex abuse of minor. **PAGE 2**
NMC spring enrollment numbers show slight dip. **PAGE 5**

IN COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DPS chief vows to rid NMI of 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero warned

all law enforcers in the CNMI yesterday to prepare for a "long, expensive, and dangerous war" against traffickers of crystal meth or "ice."

» **Law enforcers told to prepare for a long, dangerous war vs 'ice' traffickers**



Deleon Guerrero

Guerrero in his first ever "Commissioner's Address to the General Assembly" held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. DPS

"Today, I have a message to all law enforcement officers across the Commonwealth. Get ready and get ready to fight. We are going to rid this Commonwealth of crystal methamphetamine," said Deleon

officials and personnel as well as some lawmakers attended the event.

Deleon Guerrero also discussed the many problems at DPS that he inherited from his predecessors as well as the accomplishments and programs the department initiated in 2013.

Deleon Guerrero said he decided to come up with the unprecedented Commissioner's Address because he believes that, as the leader of DPS, he is duty-bound to

See DPS on Page 4

'Selection of bishop back to square one'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This April will mark five years since the resignation of Tomas A. Camacho as bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, yet the long and seemingly arduous process to find his successor is back to "square one," according to the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Speaking at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fr. Ryan Jimenez asked for the public's continued patience in the selection of the next bishop.

"It's a long and difficult process. I sometimes think that even [I] who is in charge of the administration process don't know exactly what's going on," said Jimenez.

Jimenez said the selection process started even before Camacho's resignation.

See BISHOP on Page 4



Jimenez



BEFORE THE RAINS

A man shows what he's got at the Pacific Islands Club's point break wave machine, one of the San Antonio hotel resort's Waterpark features, on a sunny Saturday or before Saipan was soaked in rainwater the past days. A tropical disturbance from the southeast had been producing heavy rains, and a high-surf advisory had been in effect due to large north swells producing hazardous surf along north-facing reefs.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos assures fairness in future land payments

» **Lawmakers eye sources of payments, press agencies for more info**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos assured fairness in future land compensation payments once money becomes available, even as lawmakers eye

tapping advance interest income from public land investments or floating a new bond after recent reports shed light on how some landowners got paid \$100,000 to over \$4 million each during previous administra-

See LAND on Page 4



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Local

Removal of unpopular items in school meals OK'd

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Students in public and private schools will see new choices in their breakfast and lunch meals after the Board of Education approved the removal of "unpopular and problematic" food items from the menus.

The new food choices will be implemented in the spring

semester of 2014, according to Food and Nutrition Services program manager Dale Roberts.

"There were a few items we changed, those that are a little bit problematic and not popular to most of the students," he said, adding that most changes will be on the entrees and side items.

For example, high school students will have two side choices that will be aligned on certain

days to make them compatible with main entrees.

Last year, the board raised concerns about non-appealing food items in the PSS breakfast and lunch meal program that result in the low participation of students and often a waste of funds.

One particular food item that students find unappealing is *See MEALS on Next Page*

Man gets 30 yrs. for sex abuse

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Alfredo Evangelista Reyes was slapped yesterday with a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison for sexually abusing a then-16-year-old girl in 2009.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho required the 51-year-old Reyes to register as a sex offender. The sentence will be served day for day, without the possibility of parole or early release.

Camacho said he imposed the full maximum sentence so that Reyes and others who sexually abuse children will be justly punished and deterred. He said his court will hear children who seek protection from sexual abuse.

"Know that those who deserve justice will receive it," the judge said.

Reyes read a prepared statement before the sentence was handed down. Wiping tears from his eyes, he denied committing any of the acts he was convicted of. He asked for a new attorney, saying his attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender were inefficient. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as his counsel, while assistant public defender Matthew Meyer assisted Sato during the trial.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda prosecuted the case.

A jury in December unanimously found Reyes guilty of

three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Camacho, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found Reyes guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

He sentenced Reyes to a maximum term of 30 years each for three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, and the maximum of one year each for three counts of assault and battery. All sentences shall run concurrently. This means that Reyes shall serve a total of 30 years for all charges. He was given credit for time served.

According to the prosecution, Reyes sexually abused the girl at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009.

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'Bills to fund DPS random drug tests remain pending'

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday there are already House bills—and some of them are just waiting for Senate passage—that would be the source

of funds for random drug tests among Department of Public Safety personnel.

"These include changing jail time to penalty fines for some of the violations considered now as misdemeanor. Portions of those fines would go toward funding

DPS random drug testing. These bills are pending at the Senate," Leon Guerrero said.

For example, one of Leon Guerrero's bills is to treat possession of less than a pound of marijuana as a non-criminal infraction, making it subject of only up

to \$100 fine, with no formal arrest and no imprisonment.

He said as a payable offense and not a criminal violation, possession of small quantity of marijuana shall be adjudicated like a traffic citation.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer at DPS, said that putting people behind bars for minor infractions costs the government more to house and feed them.

A drug test costs some \$30 per person.

Another of Leon Guerrero's bill proposes up to \$1,500 penalty for loitering instead of jail time. He said a portion of these fees can be funneled into random drug tests among law enforcement personnel.

Leon Guerrero's statement comes a day after Gov. Eloy

S. Inos said his administration will reprogram funds to ensure government random drug tests will be administered this year, following reports that not even law enforcement personnel got randomly tested in at least a year as required by law because of lack of funds.

"Besides the reprogramming or as alternative to reprogramming, we can pass these bills that could become sources of funding for DPS personnel random drug testing," Leon Guerrero added.

Office of Personnel Management director Isidro Seman said OPM needs "at least \$14,000 to

\$15,000 a year" to administer random drug tests.

The governor believes the amount estimated by OPM is a "drop in the bucket," and not funding the program is not worth the risk, especially among law enforcement agencies. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

'CW fee collection went up from \$1.5M to \$1.9M'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Worried about a possible funding cut this fiscal year, officials of the Northern Marianas College are a bit relieved following disclosure of a high possibility that it will continue to receive the same amount in contract worker's fees.

Quoting sources from Capital Hill, Dave Attao, dean of Administration and Resource Development, told the Board of Regents that the Inos administration's plan to reallocate the CW fees is primarily due to an increase in the amount of CW fees collected this fiscal year 2014.

The government used to receive \$1.5 million in CW fees. This reportedly increased to \$1.9 million this fiscal year.

Under the fiscal year 2014 budget, the Public School System and NMC will each get \$500,000 of these funds while the Northern Marianas Trade Institute will get \$400,000.

"From our sources, they're trying to re-appropriate the remaining funds [CW fees] that they didn't use. From \$1.5 million, we were told that they realized \$1.9 million for this fiscal year," Attao said.

Attao further explained that re-appropriating the remaining CW funds has to go through the legislative process.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from press secretary Angel Demapan but he has yet to respond as of press time.

According to Attao, the CW fees have been a big help in the operation of many programs at the college, particularly the apprenticeship program, which hadn't had any funding since its creation in 2006.

This is on top of the meager amount the college gets as its share of the government budget each fiscal year. The college has been asking for about \$8 million each year but usually gets a little over \$5 million.

Attao said the \$500,000 in CW fees go directly to the college's workforce development programs.

CNMI employers pay \$150 in education funding fee for each foreign worker they petition for a CW status. The federal government remits these funds to the CNMI government, and the administration earmarks these funds to institutions.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC will use the CW funds to continue the development of its

MEALS

From Page 2

black beans. Roberts said they made changes on the beans to make it more palatable.

Despite some complaints on the brown rice, Roberts said this would still be served. He explained that there's a way to make the mixture of white and brown rice appealing by going through the proper mixture of these items.

According to Roberts, the changes in the school menus were a result of the FNS team's monitoring and observation. Also factored in is the data on student participation in the meal program.

Other items that will still be on the menu are spaghetti, lasagna, pizza, and *ensalada* (salads), among others.

PSS will also initiate a "Monday Soup" schedule to attract greater participation in the breakfast meals. Mondays have been found to have the lowest student participation in school meals.

In high school, students will have three to four salad choices.

Among the food items in the newly-approved school meal choices are the following:

In one schedule, Monday

breakfast will include corn and egg soup, bread or crackers, and fruit. Lunch choices on the same day include chicken with stir-fried vegetables, rice, fruit or tuna *kelaguen* wrap and fruit.

For the Tuesday menu, breakfast offerings include omelet, rice, and fruit. Lunch choices include beef and bean macaroni, green peas, pepperoni and bell pepper, pizza, green peas, and fruit.

For Wednesday, breakfasts will have French toasts with syrup and fruit while lunch menus include chicken adobo with potatoes, carrot rice, local greens, and fruit. Lunch may also include chilled Italian sub, local greens, and fruit.

Saipan Tribune learned that breakfasts are served to students with a choice of milk or juice every day. Lunch, meantime, is served with a choice of water or milk each day.

These are just among the many food items under the new school meal menu for next year. FNS, Roberts said, would start talking to students on three islands about the changes in their food choices.

The PSS school breakfast and lunch program serves 14,000 meals daily to public and private school students.



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Johnson counsels fail to agree on unified petition

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The lawyers of Betty Johnson failed to agree on a unified petition for attorneys' fees and costs by yesterday's deadline.

Worse, Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel, Bronster Hoshibata law firm, disclosed that the invoices of Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, are "virtually incomprehensible and too vague and cryptic to enable any reasoned judgment as to the legitimate work, if any, they might effect."

Attorney Margery S. Bronster informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that despite diligent effort and the assistance of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris as a mediator, their law firm has been unable to reach an agreement on a fair and reasonable allocation of fees between itself and co-class counsels Jorgensen, Stephen C. Woodruff, and Timothy R. Lord.

Bronster, however, dis-

closed that their law firm and the CNMI have continued to pursue agreement on their individual petition for attorney's fees and have made steady progress.

"Bronster Hoshibata intends to continue this promising path of negotiation and remains hopeful it will be successful," she said.

With respect to Jorgensen's petition, Bronster said their law firm believes the only way to measure Jorgensen's contribution is by granting him 10 percent of the total attorney's fees the court determines are reasonable in this case.

"Because Jorgensen has failed to carry his burden to submit bills that provide enough information to determine how much time he legitimately spent on the case, the court simply cannot award him any fees based on his invoices," the lawyer said.

With respect to Woodruff's petition, Bronster said their law firm believes that a

reasonable fee for Woodruff would be around \$400,000 for his work on this case.

Bronster said Woodruff was a valuable asset to the progress of the case after he appeared, and he personally participated

in all mediation sessions and court hearings in the CNMI.

On Lord's petition, Bronster said their law firm could not come to an agreement with Lord because by the time Bronster entered this case,

Lord had ceased participating in the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave Johnson's counsels no later than yesterday, Jan. 22, to submit a unified petition.

The judge set an evidentiary

hearing on the petition for fees on Jan. 31, 2014.

Jorgensen is demanding at least \$18.6 million. Bronster Hoshibata is seeking \$17.5 million; Lord is asking for either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million; and Woodruff is requesting for \$2.9 million.

LAND

From Page 1

tions while some 300 others have yet to see a penny for giving up their property to the government for public road access, wetlands and ponding basins.

"What we want to do is... there are a lot of claims that are less than \$10,000. I will pay those right away, get rid of those, satisfy the folks, give them money, and so forth. Depending on the availability of funds, we could probably do a scale but not just pure percentage because some claims are in the \$3 million, \$4 million, \$10 million, \$15 million," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor said his admin-

istration wants fairness in future land compensation payments.

"I don't know what happened then and I'm not going to dwell into that but certainly something didn't go right at that time," said Inos.

The former Marianas Public Lands Authority board got to decide who, how much, and when land compensation payments will be made. MPLA is the predecessor of the Department of Public Lands.

Inos said this time around, DPL will make the certification.

"Their job is not to say, 'pay this much and pay that much'. That will be our job and our job is to make sure it's objective, that it's fair," the governor said.

The governor himself is

among the estimated 300 more landowners waiting for government payment.

Unlike others who gave up thousands of square meters of their private property, Inos only had 31 square meters of affected Kannat Tabla property that was previously owned by a former lawmaker.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) suggested yesterday that payment of land claims should be based on a "first come, first serve," or based on the date of the land taking and government certification. She said those whose lands were taken much earlier should be compensated first, before those whose lands were taken much later.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-

Saipan), House Ways and Means chairman, said yesterday he and others at the House "will make sure that before any money is touched to pay any landowner, legislation will set the manner by which money must be disbursed."

"That bill will specify the manner by which money will be distributed. We don't want a repeat of the \$40 million bond float," Sablan, referring to a previous administration's decision to float a \$40 million bond supposedly to pay landowners.

Only \$28.5 million of that ended up being used for land compensation. The rest of the \$40 million went to the construction of an adult prison in Susupe.

DPS

From Page 1

report to his personnel about the things that have been happening in the department as well as his plans.

He described crystal methamphetamine as an "evil substance" that contributes to the evolution of many forms and types of crimes against the community.

"It has made this once peaceful and free from property and violent crimes Commonwealth a dangerous place to live," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said their plan to wage war against this drug are now being finalized and that when the time comes, "there is no turning back."

He likewise called on lawmakers to stop bickering about the lack of funds and to pass critical legislation making drug testing mandatory for law enforcement officers.

"This is not a sideshow, and unlike politicians, there is no rhetoric in our remarks," the commissioner said.

In an interview with reporters after his address, Deleon Guerrero said his message to drug traffickers "will be coming out soon."

Deleon Guerrero said he has been communicating with the Drug Enforcement Administration in devising a plan.

He hopes the CNMI Judiciary will come on board by establishing a drug court.

As for DPS' plans for 2014, Deleon Guerrero said they must allow the tourism protection program to remain vibrant and strong, and to develop and bring to operation acquired properties as part of the DPS impound and Susupe Community Oriented Policing Services projects.

To improve the quality of the workforce, Deleon Guerrero said they would recruit more

women, minorities and individuals with higher learning credentials into the organization.

"Our department will be open and transparent so that we may inspire good quality and educated individuals to enter our changing workforce," he said.

He said continued investments in technology-based expansion projects, including human resource assets, will also occur.

DPS has new employees, but Deleon Guerrero will add more to help the department improve its capacities.

He said DPS has a new legal counsel, who is motivated to get started with policy revision projects.

Deleon Guerrero also wants to see the establishment of a community policing program for Kagman. "The people of Kagman deserve better and it is incumbent upon all of us to accommodate the need to afford adequate protection of Kagman residents," he said.

Deleon Guerrero recalled that the past 12 months had been particularly challenging for DPS.

"At the onset, crime was out of control, harassment and intimidation of public safety employees was widespread, and morale amongst employees was at an all-time low," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said many of the things that were once created to set the department on a path to success were destroyed and the rule of law was often ignored.

"The culture of our organization was heading in the wrong direction. Clearly, something had to be done and that's exactly what most of us collectively did," he said.

The restoration of public trust and confidence was a top priority in 2013, he said. "Our relationship with the common public was almost non-existent

and in many respects embroiled with tensions," he said.

The department, Deleon Guerrero said, began repairing the damage by cleaning up the personnel's acts. "In the process, painful decisions had to be made but, however difficult it was, order had to be restored," he added.

He pointed out that many of police officers, firefighters and civilian support service personnel made serious sacrifices by working extra hard.

"While we were doing housecleaning of our own, so did the efforts to reduce crime as aggressive pursuit of criminals intensified," he said.

While many of DPS personnel were working to regain the confidence of the community, the management was also working toward rebuilding its relationship with its state and federal law enforcement and direct service partners.

"Today, we enjoy harmonious friendships with many of our state and federal law enforcement agency partners," he said.

With respect to patrol operations, Deleon Guerrero recalled that exactly a year ago yesterday, the department was faced with the problem of having only two functional patrol vehicles.

He said DPS fuel debt was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, while the landline phone bills totaled over a hundred thousands dollars.

Many of these debts, he said, were attributed to nearly a year of neglect in making timely payments.

To make matters worse, he said, crimes committed against tourists and citizens alike were at an all-time high and more than 80 percent of the department's police emergency response vehicles were sitting idle in repair shops, many for as

long as three years back.

"This was happening in spite of the fact that our average monthly vehicle repair bills was at around \$35,000," he said.

Last year, he said, DPS established the Vehicle Issuance Management Program and only three vehicles were identified as part of the program's initial implementation.

With an initial fuel debt of over \$300,000 that was attributed to over 10 months of non-payment by his predecessor, many predicted the idea would result in failure, Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the administrative and general support staff from the Office of Fiscal Affairs, the Office of Highway Safety, and the Logistical Assets and Support Section all worked very hard to get this program on its feet.

"Today, I am pleased to announce that the Vehicle Issuance Management Program is alive and well," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that there are now 20 serviceable emergency response vehicles.

The doors for integration with the department opened for the first time last year for entry level positions with the police force and general support service positions, Deleon Guerrero said.

As a result, he said, more than 70 percent of the most recent recruits were individuals with college degrees.

"By the end of this year, the same will happen with positions at the Fire Services Division and with higher ranking titles in this department," he said.

With the little funds they were able to save, Deleon Guerrero said they have slowly begun renovation work on the DPS central office in Susupe and that all improvements will hopefully be accomplished this year.

Deleon Guerrero said with assistance from the Department of Public Works Energy Division,

all of the facility's air-conditioning systems have been replaced.

He disclosed that federal subgrant assistance totaling over \$50,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice and through the Criminal Justice Planning Agency to improve the facility's security system will soon arrive.

"A policy revision is underway and soon we will have a solid and accountable system in place," he said.

On the establishment of the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation, Deleon Guerrero said he removed the Criminal Investigation Bureau from the Commonwealth State Police to allow it to operate as an independent division equal to the

Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Commonwealth State Fire Services Division. He said a successful DPS centers around a strong and vibrant criminal investigative program.

Since they began this process, he said, the Emerita Romero murder was solved and many burglars and thieves have been arrested.

Deleon Guerrero noted that no lawsuit was filed against DPS in 2013 and not a single person was murdered.

On public-private partnership, Deleon Guerrero mentioned private companies that donated cash, vehicle, computers, bicycles, cameras, and other tools.

BISHOP

From Page 1

tion when the bishop was asked by the Vatican to submit recommendations on what qualities his successor needs to have and if there are priests in the region—the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Marshall Islands—who suit these qualities.

He said the process also lies heavily in the hands of the apostolic delegate or *nuncio*, the pope's representative based in New Zealand. He said the nuncio does all the "preliminaries" based on his study and consultation with Rome.

The nuncio will then select three names, which is called *terna*, which he will then submit to Rome where an office in the Vatican called *propaganda fidae wil* go over the names and look carefully at each candidates' background.

"What happened was and in our case—and this is no secret because it was relayed to me last year—there were already names. But sometime last year the previous *nuncio* in New

Zealand mentioned to me [that] those three names were not accepted in Rome. So we're back to square one."

Jimenez said the rejection of the *terna* by the *propaganda fidae wil* seldom happens but does happen. Since then, he hasn't heard any development on the selection of a new bishop.

"I haven't heard anything. I don't know where we are. I basically stopped asking because, you know, someone even said 'Maybe they're waiting for Jesus to come back because he's the only person qualified.' If there's no one here who is qualified then who would that be? It will happen but we just don't know when. Sometimes our timeframe is not God's timeframe," said Jimenez.

Camacho stepped down as the highest-ranking prelate in the CNMI when he turned 75 on Sept. 18, 2008, based on the Canon Law that requires a diocesan bishop who reaches that age to offer his resignation to the Holy Father in Rome. Jimenez took on his new role after Camacho's resignation became official in April 2009.

NMC spring enrollment numbers show slight drop

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The volume of students currently enrolled at the only community college on island remains a bit low compared to numbers in previous terms, based on the latest registration record of the Northern Marianas College obtained yesterday.

At the closing of the registration period on Friday, NMC had

a total of 1,095 full-time equivalent, or FTE, students. This is a slight drop compared to the 1,171 FTEs in the spring 2013 semester.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart attributes the decline to the accreditation issues of the college, which remains on show-cause status. She hopes for a positive decision by the accrediting commission when it decides NMC's fate next month.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the bulk of this semester's enrollees is from the liberal arts program, with 41 percent of students. The college's only four-year degree program, the School of Education, has the second highest enrollment with 21 percent.

Some 14 percent of students are enrolled in the business department; 10 percent are with the nursing program; 6 percent, criminal justice program; 1 percent, English language institute program; and 3 percent, NRM program.

Meantime, 4 percent of students are taking non-degree programs this semester.

According to NMC, students are still being allowed to add

classes this week and the numbers may increase.

Hart said the college initially expected an approximate 10 percent drop in this semester's enrollment. She is elated that the final numbers show only a very slight decline. In the fall 2013 semester, the college recorded an 8-percent drop.

"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program. The college has served thousands of individuals in these programs," said Hart.

She emphasized that NMC

continues to play a pivotal role in the community.

"There is no mistaking that the college continues to play a central role in educating and training thousands of indi-

viduals each year, and this has been accomplished through our academic programs and other community programs that focus on training and development," Hart said.

JKPL welcomes new librarian



MARK RABAGO

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's newly hired technical services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste, right, poses with JKPL Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recently welcomed a new librarian, Rosalyn Ajoste, who has been hired as technical services librarian.

The 34-year-old former public school teacher will report directly to JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales.

Ajoste recently completed her masters of Library and Internet Science Studies from the University of Texas in Denton. She finished her bachelor's degree in European History from University of Hawaii-Manoa.

She also is a scholar of LEAP, which stands for Library Education for the U.S. Affiliated Pacific. It's a scholarship launched by the Laura Bush Foundation to increase the number of indigenous librarians from the region.

Some of Ajoste's responsibilities involve cataloguing JKPL's inventory of books and other materials and help in crafting the state library's five- and 10-year plans. Ajoste will also be serving as the

library's de facto archivist.

One of her goals is to continue to make the JKPL as well as satellite libraries on Tinian and Rota the "best library in Micronesia."

She also believes that having an informed citizenry is part of the democratic process and one way to achieve this is putting information within reach of the community.

Ajoste also plans to make available the library's Pacific collection to academics and historians who are doing research about the region.

Other immediate goals include increasing the patronage of the library.

A resident of Susupe, Ajoste is the daughter of Filipino immigrants from Zambales, Philippines. She said her family has made Saipan their home the past 41 years.

Prior to joining JKPL, she has taught at Kagman High School for six years, Marianas High School for three years, and Saipan Southern High School for two years. (Mark Rabago)

Training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

■ Jan. 23 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm

■ Jan. 24 from 12:45pm to 3:45pm and 9pm to 11:55pm

The U.S. Air Force also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 24, from 1pm to 6pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

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No penalties assessed in buyout of PMIC contract

» 'CUC saved \$8M in terminating PPA'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faced with criticisms for its decision to terminate its power purchase agreement with Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed yesterday that the buyout of PMIC's contract two years ago actually saved the agency some \$8 million.

CUC was not assessed any penalties for the remaining balance of the contract, according

to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, showing documents related to the buyout.

CUC entered into a power purchase agreement with PMIC on Sept. 23, 1996, to run Power Plant 4. That PPA went through several amendments and renewals until both parties agreed to terminate the agreement in July 2012, with four years and one month (49 months) remaining on the contract.

That decision came about after CUC determined that the

island's Power Plant 1 is sufficient to provide power to the island even without buying power from PMIC. Since the contract's termination, Power Plant 4 became a standby source of CUC's power needs.

Based on the buyout agreement, CUC will make minimum monthly payments of \$331,000 to PMIC for 49 months, for a total of \$16.219 million.

CUC financial statements show that the termination cost is payable in 27 months, which

is equivalent to \$8.375 million. There were assets transferred by PMIC to CUC to the tune of \$974,869.

According to Warren, CUC recorded \$7.401 million in total "contract termination expense," resulting in substantial savings to CUC of \$8.817 million.

"As a result of the contract termination, CUC recognized loan payable to PMIC principal of \$8.375 million with interest at 9 percent per annum," states the documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

It was disclosed that principal and interest payments are due in

monthly payments of \$341,286.

CUC's loan balance as of Sept. 30, 2012, is \$7.470 million.

For future repayments, CUC is scheduled to pay a total of \$4.095 million representing the principal loan of \$3.567 million and interest of \$527,549 in 2013.

For 2014, scheduled repayment is \$4.095 million representing a principal loan of \$3.092 million and annual interest of \$192,857.

In summary, for 2013 and 2014, CUC's payment will total \$8.190 million, of which \$7.470 million represents principal loan and \$720,406 for the 9-percent

interest for both years.

"As you can see, PMIC and CUC mutually agreed to terminate the contract in July 2012. The annual payments for the early termination are about \$4.1 million. We have nine more payments to make under this agreement. Since the early termination payments are essentially the same as the payments under the prior operating agreement, there is no rate increase associated with the early termination. Calling the payments an infrastructure surcharge is our effort at full disclosure and transparency," Warren told *Saipan Tribune*.

Man arrested for 2 domestic violence incidents

Police arrested a man on Friday for domestic violence that allegedly occurred last October and December at the house of his girlfriend's mother in As Matusis.

Ernest M. Camacho, 23, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for criminal mischief, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Camacho allegedly choked his girlfriend on Oct. 26 and caused damage to the house of his girlfriend's moth-

er on Dec. 17.

In the Oct. 26 incident, Camacho allegedly pinned his girlfriend to the floor and choked her neck. A neighbor came and shouted at Camacho to stop. The suspect then hid behind the curtain of the window. The neighbor noticed that the victim was not moving and appeared to have passed out.

The girlfriend, however, did not press charges.

Camacho moved out of the house. After a few weeks, his girlfriend moved with him to As Perdido.

On Dec. 17, the victim returned to her mother's house because she had a problem again with Camacho.

That day, Camacho allegedly followed his girlfriend and damaged the metal screen door in the garage and window when she refused to let him in.

The mother, who was at work at the time, asked her daughter to put her on speakerphone. The mother then shouted at Camacho to leave the house.

When police arrived, Camacho was arrested. He was subsequently released as investigation was ongoing. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CUC cautions motorists, villagers about upcoming water projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cautioned motorists and villagers yesterday about two construction projects that are scheduled to start next week.

CUC chief engineer John Riegel said these upcoming projects would take place along the Airport Road and Koblerville.

Riegel disclosed that GPPC Inc. has been awarded a \$48,288 contract for the construction of the Airport Road Restoration for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project. This consists of the excavation of flowable fill and installation of asphalt concrete to replace the pavement area cut by CUC to install the San Vicente Service Area Extension Waterline Project along the Airport Road from Dahon Drive to Exploring Drive.

Because construction is set to begin today, Jan. 23, from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday, he is advising motorists to proceed with caution or take alternate routes while construction is ongoing. The target completion date for this project is on Feb. 13, 2014.

Another project in Koblerville will affect residents' water supply.

Residents of Koblerville along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road between the As Perdido Road Intersection and Eskabeche Avenue are advised of a nine-hour water outage on Friday, Jan. 24, from 8am to 5pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to install a new fire hydrant along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible," according to CUC.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

For more information, call project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025 through 30.

Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-Childhood (H.O.M.E.) Visiting Program



What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to improve the health and developmental outcomes for mothers, children, and families through home visiting services.

What is the purpose for this program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to strengthen the early childhood system in the community and to support families and communities in the development of children who are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The program strengthens and enhances evidence based curriculum activities, expand and improve coordination, and assure the provision of comprehensive services for families who reside in at-risk communities.

What are the program objectives?

- Promote and maintain positive-child Interaction and family involvement
- Provide and connect families to appropriate resources
- Protect and improve the health, growth and development of every participant served
- Produce and deliver quality service to families in at-risk communities

What Services are provided?

- Prenatal Care Planning
- Basic Baby Care
- Parental Information and Techniques
- Developmental Screening and Activities
- Parent Support
- Infant Massage
- Referrals to appropriate agencies

How can I qualify?

- Enroll Prenatally
- A resident of KAGMAN, KOBLEVILLE, DAN DAN, GARAPAN, SAN ANTONIO
- Upon enrollment child must not exceed the age of 3 months of age
- A standardized tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and who will benefit from the program.

*At risk communities refer to pre selected villages that include Kagman, San Antonio, Koblerville, Dan Dan and Garapan



This has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) Division of Public Health H.O.M.E. Visiting Program, for more information please contact 236-8724/40 or simply email us at hvpcnmi@gmail.com.

Container ship remains afloat, salvage effort underway

GUAM—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam continues response for a container ship taking on water 420 nautical miles west of Guam.

During the morning of Jan. 20, 2014, Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report from the owner of the vessel *Rich Forest* that it was taking on water approximately 420 nautical miles west of Guam.

The *Rich Forest* is a 500-foot, Panama flagged, container ship with 24 Chinese nationals aboard. The vessel was loaded with timber en route China from Solomon Islands. The vessel reportedly was taking on water in the engine room and pumps were not able to keep up with the rate of flooding. The *Rich Forest* experienced 13-foot seas and 20 to 30 knot winds.

Sector Guam contacted Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System vessels, diverted Coast Guard cutters, and requested a Department of Defense aircraft to assist the distressed vessel. Four AMVER vessels—*C.S. Sunshine*,

Andromeda Voyager, *Corona Joyful*, and *Antonis I*—agreed to divert with arrival times ranging from one to 14 hours. U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* launched from Guam with a 27-hour transit time and cutter *Sequoia* diverted from Saipan with 40 hours until arrival. A fixed-wing aircraft from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan was identified to support the search and rescue mission.

During the afternoon of Jan. 20, *C.S. Sunshine* (685-foot, Panama flagged, bulk carrier) arrived on-scene with the *Rich Forest*. Shortly after the *C.S. Sunshine's* arrival, the master of the *Rich Forest* made the decision to abandon ship into the vessel's two 24-man life rafts. *C.S. Sunshine* was able to safely keep station and embark all 24 crewmembers from the *Rich Forest* life rafts. On-scene conditions were reported to be 13-foot seas with 20 to 30 knot winds, during the rescue. *C.S. Sunshine* planned to keep the rescued crew aboard until the *Assateague* arrived in the area.

Safety broadcasts were made advising mariners of the adrift vessel.

On the afternoon of Jan. 21, *Assateague* joined the *C.S. Sunshine* and *Rich Forest*. *Assateague* was able to provide Sector Guam with an on-scene assessment of the current situation. *Assateague* reported that the *Rich Forest* remained afloat, despite the appearance of the stern riding lower than normal. Weather conditions subsided to five-foot seas with an occasional eight- to 10-foot and 15 knot winds. Sector Guam discussed potential courses of action with the vessel owner, both the masters of the *C.S. Sunshine* and *Rich Forest*, and responding Coast Guard cutters. The vessel owner is working to establish plans for the vessel's salvage.

Assateague will remain on-scene with the *C.S. Sunshine* until the *Sequoia's* projected arrival this morning. If weather conditions are conducive for the safe transfer of personnel, the 24 survivors will be transported to the *Sequoia*. (USCG)

ESFDB, MCS celebrate Catholic Schools Week



Gov. Eloy Inos, Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Fr. Ryan Jimenez pose for a photo surrounded by students from Mount Carmel School on Tuesday at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Curia library.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Eloy Inos signed Tuesday a proclamation declaring Jan. 27 to Feb. 1 as Catholic School's Week for both Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota and Mount Carmel School on Saipan.

"Mount Carmel School and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja have provided outstanding education to their students, thus contributing to the welfare of the CNMI," the proclamation partly reads.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said this year's theme—Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service—"speaks to the holistic mission of all Catholic schools."

As Saipan's only Catholic educational institution, Mount

Carmel School strives to educate the whole child academically, morally, socially, and spiritually, Guerrero added.

"This is not to diminish the contributions of other schools, but when you come to a school where you can be open about your faith, it can be an essential part of who we are and what we do."

MCS, established in 1952, and ESFDB, established in 1989, will host a variety of events starting next Sunday for Catholic School's Week.

At Mount Carmel on Saipan, a kickoff Mass will be held on Sunday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9am. On Monday students will volunteer at Head Start centers around the island to "serve their community."

The school's teacher and staff of the year will be announced on

Tuesday and on Wednesday the school will focus on the topic of vocation and will host a Quiz Bowl. Students will recognize on Thursday the men and women serving the country and on Friday a roadside waving will be held, dedicated to the students' families. The parents of the year will also be announced during Family Fun Night that day.

The annual "Night With the Knights" event will close the weeklong celebration and will also crown the AlumKnight of the Year.

"Catholic School's Week has always been a fun and exciting event," said one MCS student. "We get to have fun and celebrate our faith in Christ."

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota will hold similar events next week as well.

Road renamed

Gov. Eloy Inos also signed on Tuesday House Local Bill 18-29 that renames Hagoi Rd. to "Knight Street." The bill was co-authored by Precinct 2 Reps. Ralph Demapan and John Paul Sablan and is now Saipan Local Law 18-10.

"It not only speaks to the school but it speaks to what the school stands for when we embrace the Knight as our mascot," Guerrero said. "Knighthood is about having character and integrity and it is something that transcends MCS."

Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, echoed Guerrero. "I feel like part of my priesthood is really helping out with schools and believing in the value of Catholic education."

CCA brings in new board member

The Commonwealth Cancer Association has elected a new member to the CCA board of directors, Cherry Lumbana. Member elections took place at the annual membership and board of directors meeting on Jan. 16, 2014, at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The meeting also saw the reelection of Lauri B. Ogomoro and Bobbi Grizzard, completing the CCA's seven-member board, which also includes incumbent members Roman "Bo" T. Palacios, Maggie C. Camacho, Vivian S. Taitano, and Jocelyn Songsong.

The election of board officers saw the election of Ogomoro as

president, Palacios as vice president, Grizzard as secretary, and Camacho as treasurer.

The board also welcomed Dr. Daniel Lamar as the new CCA medical adviser.

The CCA extends thanks to all of its partners, donors and individuals who contribute to the successful programs of the CCA. The public is encouraged to learn about our programs and contribute to the very important and worthwhile work of the agency. For more information contact the CCA at telephone 682-0050 or via email at cca@ccamarianas.org or visit its website at www.ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 23, 2006

'Govt shortfall may exceed \$51M'

The CNMI government is facing a budget shortfall that could soar to more than \$51 million this fiscal year and only five agencies will be spared from funding cuts. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced in a press conference Friday that the budget for departments and agencies is currently short by about \$51 million. He added, however, that the actual shortfall may be bigger, since the estimated figure was based on the \$213-million budget authorized by Public Law 13-24, the last enacted

budget law. Quoting acting Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, the governor reported that the government is expecting to collect only \$190 million to \$200 million in revenues in fiscal year 2006.

Fitial to take control of MPLA

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced Friday that he will soon suspend the board and take full control of the Marianas Public Lands Authority to stop the agency from wasting public funds. "I am going to take over the board so they will no longer waste public funds," Fitial said during a press conference. "I strongly feel that they are

wasting public funds and they shouldn't be doing that. If you rate their performance versus the money they have spent, you wouldn't find a letter in the alphabet to grade them." According to Fitial, the MPLA board is the first of several agencies that he will take over. He said he will suspend most boards as part of his administration's reorganization plan.

January 23, 2007

Robbery cases are also on the rise

Copper wire thefts are not the only ones on the rise on Saipan. Robbery cases as well are on the upswing. Over the weekend, two women were reportedly robbed in Chalan Kanoa and San Antonio. Jin Yu Piao, 35, lost her purse containing \$140 cash, identification cards, entry permit, Social Security card, and driver's license. The other victim, Sun Chun Xiang,

23, lost her black purse containing \$455 cash, passport, Social Security card, Commonwealth Health Center card, and other documents. Police investigation showed that Piao had just bought some items from a store and was standing near the Karaoke Music Hall in front of the M.S. Villagomez building in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night.

'Govt causing delay in volcano monitor'

The CNMI government's alleged inaction is delaying efforts by the U.S. Geological Survey to install a volcano monitoring system in the Northern Marianas, according to an opposition lawmaker. Rep. Ramon Tebuteb said the USGS had been trying since the spring of 2006 to execute a memorandum of understanding with the CNMI with regard to the volcano early warning system. But despite USGS' re-

peated inquiries regarding the proposed MOU, there has been no response from the Governor's Office and the Emergency Management Office.

January 23, 2008

'Non-HQT teachers are suffering'

The Public School System has a total of 525 teachers, of which 347 are considered highly qualified—a performance that PSS takes pride in. Lost, however, in all these are the status of the remaining 178, who suffer not only from the label of being non-HQT but also from the salary cut that they were forced to absorb because of their not being such. Kagman High School teacher Sam Joyner highlighted the plight of non-HQT teachers during the CNMI State Board of Education meeting on Jan. 19, saying that "teacher mo-

rale is at an all time low" because of this.

House questions budget 'discrepancy'

The House of Representatives questioned yesterday what they called a "discrepancy" in the governor's submissions on the fiscal year 2008 budget. Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said there is an \$8.61-million gap between the resources that the governor identified for appropriation in the two documents he submitted to the Legislature. On Sept. 10, 2007, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted the FY2008 Budget Transmittal, which identified resources of \$168.771 million for appropriation. On Sept. 12, 2007, Fitial sent the FY2008 Resources Transmittal, which identified budget resources of \$160.1 million.

Ribbon cut for first Marine Corps relocation projects

By **JESSE LEON GUERRERO**
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of the first two U.S. Marine Corps relocation projects was held on Naval Base Guam yesterday.

The USMC-funded Apra Harbor Wharf Improvement and the Government of Japan-funded utilities improvements and USMC Welcome Center will directly support the USMC relocation to Guam and provide immediate utility to forces currently stationed in Guam or transiting the region. The projects, which cost more than \$180 million, are part of a broader effort to expand the military's capabilities of receiving U.S. Marines who are relocating here.

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, joined Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment Roger Natsuhara, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Infrastructure Strategy and Analysis Joe Ludovici, Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), NBG Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Ward, USMC Headquarters Pacific Division Director Bryan Wood and other dignitaries in cutting the ribbon in front of Government of Guam representatives, military officials, civil service employees, and dozens of other guests.

Payne spoke about the facilities as being just the tip of the iceberg of revitalization efforts that can accommodate larger vessels and new missions.

"This capability is critically important as our nation rebalances our forces to the Pacific, and it makes every inch of our wharf space a commodity that is in high demand," he said. "It benefits Guam directly through increased supplies coming through the commercial port to support the increasing military requirements that we will have."

Natsuhara said the projects are indicative of the partnership, support, and commitment between the U.S. and its allies.

"Each subsequent year we expect the amount of military construction to increase and bring more jobs and economic benefits to the people of Guam," he said. "Each year we are taking larger steps toward having the third Marine forces (III Marine Expeditionary Force) and their families call Guam their new home."

Cmdr. Jonathan Witham, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas Defense Policy Review Initiative program manager, said he and his team were responsible for working with the Marines to successfully execute the projects.

"In the case of the Apra Harbor Utilities and Site Improvements project, which is funded by the Government of Japan, we worked closely with GOJ Ministry of Defense personnel to provide project oversight



U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, center, commander, Joint Region Marianas, participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with visiting dignitaries at the U.S. Marine Corps Welcome Center at U.S. Naval Base Guam on Jan. 22. From left: Japan Ministry of Defense Deputy Director General for Realignment Initiatives Sadaaki Tabei, Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment Roger Natsuhara, Payne, Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, Micronesia Watts Constructors, LLC vice president John Sage, and NBG commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward.



Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, welcomes attendees at a ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially unveiled the Apra Harbor Wharf Improvement and U.S. Marine Corps Welcome Center, the first two USMC relocation projects completed on U.S. Naval Base Guam Jan. 22.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment Roger Natsuhara speaks to attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 22.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO



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FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GILDA E. ESCAMILLA-JALMAS) FCD DI
Petitioner.) CIVIL
versus) ACTION
JOSE JALMAS JR.,) NO. 13-0462
Respondent)
SUMMONS

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/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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GENERAL MECHANIC (1) – Minimum of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

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Submit your resume to Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or email at reneacia.sannicolas@bccnmi.com



Central Executive Committee (CEC) Special Meeting Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:00 PM CEC Headquarters, Dandan

The Central Executive Committee (CEC) invites men and women who wish to run for public office in the 2014 election to attend. The CEC also invites the general public to attend, register, and become a member of the

Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas *The People's Party: Rebuilding the Commonwealth*

With the commitment to:

- Serve as the party for equality and fairness.
- Establish and maintain an open government: accountable, honest, and transparent (no political party discrimination).
- Ensure the highest possible standards in the areas of Education, Health and Public Safety.

For more information, contact:

Vice Chair Jesse Borja at phone: 234-8848 or email:
jesse.borja.tuhu@gmail.com;

Secretary Jenn Castro at email ms.jenn.castro@outlook.com
Juan "Pan" Guerrero at phone: 483-1726 or email: juanpan09@gmail.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What the 1984 Betamax ruling did for us all

Friday night at 9, millions of Americans sat in front of their televisions and watch the tropical police drama "Hawaii Five-0" on their local CBS station. And over the next week, roughly 3 million more will watch the show on their own schedule. That's an unremarkable statistic today, considering that half of American homes have a digital video recorder. But until Jan. 17, 1984, it was an open question whether consumer electronics companies would even be allowed to sell such devices.

On that day 30 years ago, a divided Supreme Court overruled the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and declared that Sony could continue to sell its Betamax videocassette recorder despite the objections of two large Hollywood studios, Universal and Disney. It's an anniversary worth celebrating by consumers and copyright owners alike, because it helped clear the way for a multitude of new technologies that have increased the demand for creative works. Yet it hardly ended the decades-long fight between the entertainment and tech industries.

Justice John Paul Stevens' majority opinion in Sony Corp. of America v. Universal laid down at least two important principles for future innovators. First, even if people copied an entire show, it wasn't an infringement if they were doing so to watch the program later. And second, if a product had a substantial legitimate use (such as time-shifting shows that are broadcast free over the air), it could be sold even if some buyers put it to illegitimate use (such as making copies of shows to rent or sell). But just as important, Stevens declined to expand copyright law to restrict new capabilities Congress hadn't contemplated when it wrote the copyright statute.

Betamax eventually lost the format war to VHS recorders, but its courtroom triumph helped all such devices proliferate. Recorders soon became the foundation for the home video business, which turned into Hollywood's largest cash cow. Meanwhile, the ruling opened the door for TiVo and other digital gadgetry in the home, then helped defend an assortment of Web-based services with both infringing and non-infringing uses, such as YouTube and other user-generated content sites and Dropbox and other online storage services.

As new technologies emerge, however, so do legal questions that Stevens' opinion doesn't answer—at least not to the satisfaction of copyright holders or, in some cases, the courts. Last week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case brought by the major broadcast networks against Aereo, a company that erects an array of tiny TV antennas on its property that subscribers use to tune in broadcasts on their computers, tablets and smartphones. We'll have more to say about the case later; for now, it's enough to note that it could prove as important to cloud-based services as the Betamax case was to new devices in the home.

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Kalashnikov and Oppenheimer

The news caught our attention on the death of Russian Mikhael Kalashnikov, AK-47 assault rifle inventor (*Avtomat Kalashnikova* aka Kalashnikov, AK, or in Russian slang, Kalash). He died at the ripe age of 94 but he bothered to check if he was responsible for the havoc his little "defense weapon" had caused across the planet from the *episkopos* of the Russian Orthodox Church.

It was in '79 when conducting a weeklong community consultation in one of the hill villages outside of Davao City in Mindanao that I encountered a squad of AK-armed rebels (NPA, the New People's Army) come to the village to "salvage" two police officers who organized gambling in the barangay center 24/7 when they were off duty. The intrusion came awkwardly when a bullet zinged past my ear while squatting in a makeshift outhouse. One of our male U.S. volunteers was so unhungry that he walked down the hill straight to the Davao Peninsula where he holed up until he was convinced he was safe. He promptly flew out of the city and the country.

As an American, the volunteer thought the NPA came for him. He had good reasons to. The favored counterpart to the AK-47 in Vietnam is the U.S. military's M-16, designed a decade after the AK to replace the bulky M1 Garand. It was called an ArmaLite. It was more sophisticated but had been known in rugged Indochina to lock out at the most inappropriate moments. The AK does the same, but it is simple enough for a user to disassemble and repair without much technical know-how.

A comparison of production number, cost, and ease of use has the AK well ahead of the M16 100 to 8, making Kalashnikov's salve to his conscience understandable. Rebel groups I've encountered subscribe to the AK while U.S. supported centrally managed governments (aka dictatorships) are M16 equipped.

I looked straight at the nozzle of an M16 as 13 of them were pointed at my chest when a squad of constabulary troopers came calling at our village training center in Mactan Island, Cebu, during the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship.

The village of Sudtonggan in Barrio Basak had a big *honcho* who strutted around with a new Baretta M9 handgun (a Cebu town thrives with well copied *colorum* handguns). Once while drunk, he came over to the training center brandishing his new weapon to confront movie showing and charging entry fees to make the service viable. He thought that since am a volunteer of obvious means and education, I must be loaded enough not only to procure the projector but also to pay for the rentals, instead of getting the poor peasants part with their meager resource. An admirable sentiment but it was a tad off from our self-supporting development promo.

Anyway, a few weeks later, at the height of the village fiesta, and shortly after I drove my 250cc dirt bike from the central village

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millennium's turn. He now writes from China.



dance to my dwelling at the center, a shot rang out that snuffed the village honcho's breath. I followed the pickup that sped to the city emergency room 30 miles away. The Baretta-wielding *señor* was pronounced DOA. The NPA was rumored to be responsible for the not-too-widely-lamented "salvage." Someone suggested that I harbored NPA personnel at the training school. Thus, the constabulary and their M16 one fateful afternoon in July of 1986!

I confess I almost wet my pants at the time. Instead, I gasped my standard response: "Gee, what a way to go!" The village scholar who lived in the center stood agog over the prospect of violence in the confrontation. We pacified the intruders after they viewed our rooms and empty freezer, seeing no evidence of any NPA presence at all!

Not too long after, the EDSA People's Power ushered the Marcos dictatorship to a hurried departure for Hawaii.

So, back to Kalashnikov. He joins J. Robert Oppenheimer in my book as folks who rued over the use of their inventions, in Oppenheimer's case his participation in the Manhattan Project that produced the Tinian-launched bomb to snuff 60,000 breaths in a flash over Hiroshima one day in August 1945. Oppenheimer later lobbied for strict control of nuclear power proliferation, resulting in his being stripped of his top security classification during Sen. McCarthy's anxious reign of inquisition.

FDR intoned: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Kalashnikov's fear that he might adversely pay for his invention should there be an afterlife (a wager since he was not a theist), is common to all of us. Schooled in deterministic philosophy of the inevitability of cause-and-effect in our time, we dread the influence of the past on the present and the future.

Freedom to me is deciding to allow the past to influence my present, and for future resolves to guide my present, neither of which falls into a determinism of causality that is to be feared after guilt of past offenses we might have committed. Conscience is a choice, not an obligation; responsibility is an internal response before it is an external act.

So, Kalashnikov, rest easy. May the rest of us who also "Just Do It" do the same.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Grasian konbetsasion

Lamegai basis antes `nai matachoñgyu` gi un` banda umekuñgog man-grasiosu siha na konbetsasion mañainahu. Ayu `nai hu huñgog finapos biuhu gi tiempon Haliman giya Yap yan `nos kuantos tautau-ta.

Ayu siha na dinaña` `nai hu huñgog pinadesen biuhu ni mapresu ni Japones antes de gera pot ha tuñgu` dididi` finu` Iñglis. Era, bayeneru un` tihuña ni mattu gi sanhaya na patte giya America. Gi biradaña mamahan leblu siha para i lahiña, era si bihun mame.

Sumen edukau na dinaña ni mahuchum yan paire na sena ni maprepara para todus. Ayu na inetnon `nai hu tuñgu lokue` haye tumuge` kantan Chamorro yan Carolinas siha na esta pa`gu na tiempu ta huhuñgog gi misan gayu.

Anchu finapos biuhu lau estake ha diñgu ham, ayu `nai hana` fagapu` ha`aniña i manaitai leblu antes de u deskansa. Guiya `nai umeyagyu` kaddun manog fresku yan sashimi. Adumididi` mafañagueyu` preparasion este siha na putahe estake lagseyu` gi kusina.

Guiya lokue` i amku` fumana`gue ham man-ekuñgog gaseta gi radio ni oppan halom ginen Japon yan otu nasion siha. Deste ayu na tiempu kulan hu offfisiona tumatiye gaseta mientras kinafefe ham `an pueñge. Manhalom na amku` ni tumuñgu` kabales tres eskal-eran finu` Chamorro.

Lastima sa` ti hu offfisiona liñguae guihe na tiempu mina` ti hu tatiye umeyag. Gaige ha` gi fihonhu i tiuhu Bilin (William S. Reyes) yan asaguaña para `an guaha dinidahu finu` Chamorro. Dañkulu yan fitme na ineyag hu rikohe ginen dos sainahu piot gi bandan relihion. Siha i dos kumondukta mauleg kantan Gima Yuus gi koru kada Dameño.

Hu agradese ayu na dinaña` familia ni gumu`ot ham hihot pot anaku` na tiempu.

Otru siha dinaña`

`Nai echuyu` lahe, guaha `nai hu dalalag gi biahu man-ayuda gi fina` che`chu` fandañgu `sino finatai. `Nos kuantos dinaña `nai hu soda` mas parientela yan haye siha familian defuntu tatahu.

Oppan masañganña minaleg tatahu parehu ha` halom Chamorro yan Karolinas. Sige dispues hu ekuñgog mañainahu mismu pot para bai` konfitma minagahetña i man-sañgan pot i amku`.

Mafattu gi hinasoghu haf` mohon para finaposhu yangin guiya-yu` umesgaihonyu` mona deste `nai ha diñguyu` sais dias antes de mina` siñko años na kompleañoshu.

Guaha lokue` `nai mattu gi hinasoghu un` sumen mauleg na primuhu ni matai aksidente. Haf` mohon ya soplu yan kau haf` para offisioña?

Lokue`, mampos ha kone`yu` i mauleg yan pas na dinaña` komunida antes. Gi oran nesessidat, man-gaige yan kanai `sino ayudon niha. Manana`lu tatte parehu `nai guiya gai tareha ma-ayuda. Ni unu sumeha gi che`chu` komunida.

Tai malefaghu ni dibatde na platon guiha `an taftaf oga`an `sino minachom atdau. Pa`gu, debi ta sugu` gi kanton chalan `nai mafogse pottanmoneda-ta. Antes dibatde, pa`gu fahan gi katkuet saku-dida. Ai na minatulaika i tiempu.

Pinegsai gualu`

Kantida pinegsai mame manog antes gi lanchu. Kontodu babue, ñga-ña` yan chiba. `An taya` chinili` lateria, pues dimalas dos poya `sino tandan. Adahe na pairen katdu ni mana` dinilalag ni sumen pika na finadeni`. Dispues, fan espiha fan asonmu estake oran manyabau ta`lu.

Mina` paire ayu siha na pinegsai sa` puru naturat na `an soblan kinisecha inna` sesetbe. Taya` fina kometsiu na `nababue ni mana`ye tinilada na amot (growth hormone). Poresu na homlu` todus katnen

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



pinegsai antes. Sumasaunau kalamasa, mendioka, sune, kamute, kañguñg, choda, kañguñg na tupu.

Magahet na man-makreansa ham gi halom gualu` piot gi uttimon semana. Deste ke manunog ham gi kareta in` tutuhon man-manyabau yan hale` tañgantañgan. Guaha siha na kalaskas yan sosge` in` sistene para nika yan dagu. Los dimas, todus man-poduñg dispues de in` señge ni redan kareta. Sen na`magof uttimon i ha`ane lau esta ni para chaleg ti bale sa` in` tutuhon mansikat gi kareran para i gima` man-yayas.

Estague` tirun hoben guihe na tiempu fuera de peskan halom tanu` yan tasi. Ineyag linala` familia sumen metgot gi todus kinalamten.

■ ■ ■

Ti hu tuñgu` na na`bulahcu i ates `an un` daflogue. Ni ti hu tuñgu` na fotte bulachuña mames tuba. `Nai para i gima` `nai anog fottalisan tuba. Tat ti hu sufá` na rinton gi karera papa` gi hegsu`.

Deste ayu hu adaheyu` mames tuba. Dispues, fotten puti `nai ha yalaka` estomaguhu. Esta sumen u mafamaulegyu` yan pettan i kemon. Puru leksion para man-inosiente.

■ ■ ■

I atdau kahulu` gi sanhaya, man-ina dispues tumunog gi sanlagu gi lemlem tautau. Ayu `nai bai` chathinasso `an kahulu` gi sanlagu. Pot dios mihu!

The global grip of cigarette smoking

By **THOMAS J. BOLLYKY**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fifty years ago this month, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry announced the bombshell conclusions of a new report to a crowded room of journalists: Cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, is associated with other deadly illnesses and warrants remedial action.

That 1964 surgeon general's report on smoking and health spurred profound and lasting changes in tobacco use and policies in the United States, but its call to action has gone unfulfilled internationally. In the intervening decades, smoking has expanded in developing countries and has had devastating consequences for the world's poor.

Until that 1964 report, smoking rates had been climbing in the United States for six decades. A majority of American adults, including Terry and five of the report's advisory committee members, were current or former smokers. Public health efforts had been bogged down in debates with cigarette industry-funded scientists over the meaning of "causality" and the relevance to humans of cancer in tobacco-exposed mice.

But, based on a review of 7,000 health studies involving more than 1 million men and women, the surgeon general report's showed an ironclad link between smoking and lung cancer, and everything changed.

Step by step, the government cracked down on tobacco. Warning labels were added to cigarette packages (1965), cigarette advertising was banned on television and radio (1971), smoking on commercial airline flights was forbidden (1987), and tobacco products were put under Food and Drug Administration oversight (2009). U.S. cities and states—New York City and California in particular—led the way with bans on smoking in public places. U.S. criminal and civil tobacco lawsuits exposed and punished tobacco companies for decades of obfuscation and malfeasance.

The results speak for themselves. The percentage of Americans who smoke has dropped by more than half since 1964, to 18 percent. An analysis in a recent *Journal of the American Medical Association* estimated that the decline in U.S. smoking saved 8 million lives and extended average U.S. life expectancy by two years. Other developed countries have achieved similarly dramatic smoking reductions. A recent Citigroup investment report speculated that smoking could virtually disappear in wealthy countries over the next 30 to 50 years.

But this is not the end of the story, sadly. With sales diminishing in the United States and other high-income nations, the tobacco



industry has aggressively expanded in poorer countries. Between 1970 and 2000, cigarette consumption tripled in developing nations. There are now 1 billion smokers globally, almost one-third of the world's adult population, and smoking rates are increasing in some countries, such as Bangladesh and Indonesia. Many expect Africa to be next. Nearly 40 percent of the world's children—700 million—breathe secondhand tobacco smoke at home.

Unless urgent action is taken, the World Health Organization esti-

mates, tobacco use will kill 1 billion people this century. More than 80 percent of those deaths will be in developing countries.

U.S. engagement on global tobacco control has been limited. The United States helps monitor smoking internationally, provides technical assistance when asked on tobacco regulation, and lends its financial support to WHO, some of which spills over into global tobacco control efforts. U.S. officials no longer use trade measures to pry open emerging economies to imported cigarettes, as had been done throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and, despite occasional, significant congressional pressure, have also refrained from trade disputes against other countries' tobacco control measures.

On the other hand, tobacco use, which annually kills more people worldwide than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined, is not even a line item in the \$8 billion U.S. global health budget. The U.S. Agency for International Development has a formal tobacco policy, last reissued in 2009, that indicates that the agency will not undertake international tobacco control programs for staffing and budget reasons, although it will participate in international policy discussions. Nearly every U.S. trade and investment agreement negotiated over the last decade has reduced tobacco tariffs and continued to protect tobacco investments like those of any other U.S. industry. The United States is one of a handful of countries, along with Cuba, Somalia and Zimbabwe, that has yet to ratify the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

We can do better, at little cost. The mandate and resources of federal agencies should be increased to help developing countries build their own programs to tax and regulate tobacco, and to warn against smoking. Modest aid would go a long way; ultimately, those programs would generate sufficient revenues to be self-supporting.

Finally, the United States should exempt nondiscriminatory tobacco control measures from legal challenge under its future trade and investment agreements. In recent years, multinational cigarette companies have used or threatened legal action to bully and block countries such as Namibia and Uruguay from implementing the same tobacco regulations that exist in the United States.

In 1997, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., asked a question on the floor of the Senate about U.S. tobacco policy: "We want to stop American kids from smoking; so why don't we seem to care as much about Asian or African kids?"






Seventeen years later—and 50 years since the landmark surgeon general's report on smoking's evils—we are still asking.

Thomas J. Bollyky is the senior fellow for global health, economics and development at the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 58
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 63
London	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 57
Miami	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 55
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 23 ▼ 4
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 43
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 37
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 44
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 29
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 47
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 27 ▼ 9

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
12:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:52 PM	11:06 AM
Friday		11:50 AM
Saturday	12:46 AM	12:37 PM
Sunday	1:43 AM	1:29 PM
Monday	2:42 AM	2:25 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Island Snapshots



SCHOOL CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The San Vicente Elementary School PTSA hosts a school cleanup on Jan. 18, 2014. Approximately 25 parents, along with students, showed up. Happy Market, Triple J 5 Star Wholesale, and Charcoal BBQ supported with lunch and drinks for the volunteering parents and students. The parental involvement aspect of the school's Strategic Priorities ensures a continued commitment not only with the school but with parents who share a common goal—educating our youth.



PORT VISIT

Above, sailors man the rails of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG 85) as the ship arrives on Saipan on Tuesday for a port visit. McCampbell is on patrol in the 7th Fleet area of operations supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

U.S. NAVY/CHRIS CAVAGNARO

Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class Phillip Glover, from Lockhart, Texas, heaves a line aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG 85) as the ship arrives on Saipan on Tuesday for a port visit.

U.S. NAVY/CHRIS CAVAGNARO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to our #1 Dad, Manny "The Mechanic" Vitug! Thank you for always blessing us with your love and prayers. Love, your family.



Happy birthday to Jennie Igi-somar, shown here with niece Kai! May you enjoy your special day and God bless you always! Much love from KaiLani clan!

A special 15th birthday shout-out to our one crazy funky son, brother, uncle, nephew, and friend, Jerwin "Boboy" Tagabuel Moded Jr., who brings so much laughs and love to our lives! May God bless you on your special day and may you have many more to come. From your family and friends.

Belated happy birthday Ninz! Wishing you many more birthday blessings forever. Cheers, sister! Lots of love from your friends and family.





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40 pc Tupperware
Set **\$29.95**



Oster 14 Speed
Blender
\$44.95



Bella XLarge 10X18 Griddle **\$44.95**



Anchor Ovenware
9pc Bake Set **\$22.95**



Rival Rice
Cooker
\$29.95



Hamilton Beach Stay
or Go Slow Cooker
\$54.95



Proctor Silex 4 Slice
Toaster **\$26.95**



Proctor Silex
12-Cup
Coffee Maker
\$19.95



Jaclyn Smith 5pc
Mahogany Dining Set
\$329.95



Jaclyn Smith 3 Piece Faux
Marble Accent Table Set
\$139.95



Kenmore 18cu.ft.
Refrigerator **\$649.95**



Frigidaire 5,000 BTU
AC Unit **\$189.95**



Kenmore Electric Range **\$499.95**



Kenmore
Washer
\$579.95



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Entertainment Center
\$279.95

Essential Home Deluxe
Task Chair with Loop Arms
\$59.95



Cruz Futon Sofa Sleeper **\$139.95**



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LG Streaming
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Disc Player
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LG Stylish Sound Bar **\$175.95**



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with Bluetooth
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Memorex CD/MP3 Player
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Eversoft
Pillow Soft
Standard
Size
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Essential Home Black
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Black & Decker 7.2V
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Cosco Sprinter
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Disney Care Center
Pooh Playard
\$149.95

Essential Home Kids
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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

Subcompact vehicles fare poorly in new crash tests

DETROIT (AP)—Subcompact cars fared poorly in new crash tests performed by an insurance industry group.

None of the 12 minicars tested got the highest rating of “good” from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Chevrolet Spark was the only car that earned the second-highest rating of “acceptable.” Six of the cars—including the segment’s best-seller, the Nissan Versa—got the lowest rating of “poor.”

All of the cars were from the 2013 or 2014 model years.

“Small, lightweight vehicles have an inherent safety disadvantage. That’s why it’s even more important to choose one with the best occupant protection,” said Joe Nolan, IIHS’s senior vice

president for vehicle research.

The institute’s small overlap test, which was introduced in 2012, mimics what happens when a car’s front corner collides with another vehicle or an object like a utility pole. In the test, 25 percent of a vehicle’s front end on the driver’s side strikes a rigid barrier at 40 mph.

The test differs from the U.S. government’s frontal crash test, in which a car strikes a rigid barrier head-on at 35 mph.

IIHS says hitting only part of the front end makes it harder for cars to manage the energy from a crash. In several of the subcompacts, the structures collapsed, which can exacerbate injuries because the air bags, seats and other parts get

knocked out of position.

In the test of the Honda Fit, for example, the steering column pushed so far into the vehicle that the dummy’s head slid off the air bag and hit the instrument panel. IIHS said the Fit was one of the worst performers in terms of potential injuries to the driver.

Honda responded that the 2015 Fit, which goes on sale in a few months, should earn a top score on the small offset test. The recently redesigned Honda Civic, which is one size up from the Fit, is among five small cars with “good” ratings on the test. A four-door Civic is around 300 pounds heavier and 18 inches longer than the current four-door Fit.



This undated photo provided by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows the Honda Fit during a crash test.

New rules sought for child car seats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Child car seats would for the first time have to protect children from death and injury in side-impact crashes under regulations the government is proposing, The Associated Press has learned.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration seeks to upgrade standards for child seats for children weighing up to 40 pounds to include a new test that simulates a side crash. The agency estimates the standards will prevent the deaths of about five children and injuries to 64 others each year.

NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman is scheduled to announce the proposal Wednesday.

Under the proposal, the new tests will simulate a “T-bone” crash, where the front

of a vehicle traveling 30 mph strikes the side of a small passenger vehicle traveling at 15 mph. The tests will position the car seat on a sled, with another sled ramming the side of the sled with the seat, rather than using actual vehicles since the aim isn’t to test the crash worthiness of specific vehicles, NHTSA officials said.

Research shows that most child deaths and injuries in side-impact crashes involve a car carrying children that is stopped at an intersection, usually at a light or stop sign, officials said. When the car begins to accelerate to go through the intersection, it is struck in the side by a vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed on the cross street.

The side-impact test—the

first of its kind—simulates both the acceleration of the struck vehicle and the vehicle’s door crushing inward toward the car seat. Besides using a 12-month-old child dummy already approved under NHTSA standards, the proposed test will also utilize a to-be-developed side-impact dummy representing a 3-year-old child.

“As a father of two, I know the peace of mind this proposed test will give parents,” Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement. The test “will give parents and car seat makers important new data on how car seats perform in side crashes.”

Friedman called car seats “an essential tool for keeping young children safe in vehicles and have a proven track record of saving lives.”

Nation

Storm buries the Northeast

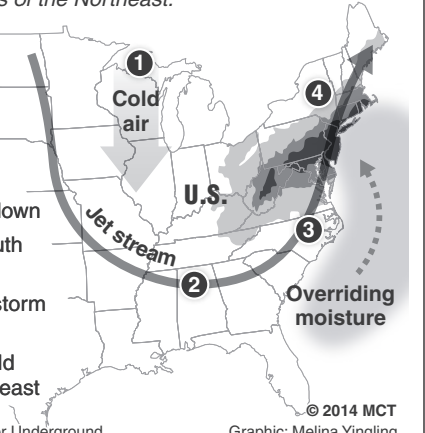
Lots of snow and cold air

A winter storm is bringing frigid temperatures and as much as a foot of snow in some parts of the Northeast.

Weather conditions Through Wednesday

- 8-12 inches
- 5-8 inches
- 1-5 inches

- 1 Cold arctic air moves down
- 2 Jet stream pulls air south and then up the coast
- 3 Moisture brought into storm system
- 4 Combination brings cold and heavy snow to Northeast



Source: Weather Channel, Weather Underground

Graphic: Melina Yingling

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A swirling storm clobbered parts of the mid-Atlantic and the urban Northeast on Tuesday, dumping nearly a foot and a half of snow, grounding thousands of flights, closing government offices in the nation’s capital and making a mess of the evening commute.

The storm stretched 1,000 miles between Kentucky and Massachusetts but hit especially hard along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston, creating perilous rides home for millions of motorists.

The National Weather Service said Manalapan, N.J., got 15.5 inches of snow, Philadelphia got slightly more than a foot and Brookhaven, near Philadelphia’s airport, got 15. It said parts of New York City had 10 inches.

The snow came down harder and faster than many people expected. A blizzard warning was posted for parts of Massachusetts, including Cape Cod.

Highways in the New York City metropolitan area were

jammed, and blowing snow tripled or even quadrupled drive times.

“I just want to get to the Bronx,” motorist Peter Neuwens lamented. “It’s a big place. Why can’t I get there?”

In Jersey City, N.J., Stanley Gaines, wearing just a thin jacket and huddling beneath an overhang as snow stung his face, said he had been stuck for more than an hour waiting for a ride home from his appointment at a Veterans

Affairs clinic.

“I’m waiting on anything I can get: a taxi, a shuttle, a bus,” Gaines said, squinting to read the destination on an approaching bus in near white-out conditions. “I didn’t really pay attention to the weather this morning because there was no snow on the ground, and now—this!”

In White Plains, N.Y., Anthony Schirrone pulled over his car to scrape snow from the windshield.

Former Va. Gov. Bob McDonnell, wife indicted

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, once viewed as a rising star in the GOP, and his wife were indicted Tuesday on federal corruption charges accusing the couple of accepting tens of thousands of dollars in loans, shopping sprees, money for their daughter’s wedding—and even a joyride in a Ferrari—from the owner of a company that makes health supplements.

The 14-count indictment portrays the former governor as deeply entrenched in credit card debt even before he took office and willing to accept lavish gifts from Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams, who hoped the first couple’s

endorsement for his products would yield big profits for his company.

McDonnell appeared Tuesday night at a hastily called news conference in Richmond to strongly deny any wrongdoing and denounce what he said was an “unjust overreach” by federal prosecutors.

“I did nothing illegal for Mr. Williams in exchange for what I believed was his personal friendship and his generosity,” said McDonnell, who was flanked by his wife, daughter and son-in-law as he read from prepared remarks.

McDonnell vowed to “use every available resource and advocate” to fight the charges.

While still in office, the

governor apologized for accepting the gifts and repaid thousands to Williams. Limited to a single term by state law, McDonnell left the executive mansion earlier this month in disgrace, his approval numbers low and his political future in tatters.

At one time, McDonnell had been considered a possible running mate for Mitt Romney, and the governor’s seat has opened the door to higher office since Thomas Jefferson held the post from 1779 to 1781. McDonnell delivered the 2010 Republican response to the State of the Union Address, and became chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 2011.

Obama, Francis to meet amid shared economic view

WASHINGTON (AP)—When President Barack Obama meets Pope Francis in the Vatican in March, both men will speak a common economic language rooted in similar views about poverty and income inequality, giving prominence to an issue that the U.S. president wants to be a central theme of his second term.

In the complicated relationship between the Obama administration and the Catholic Church, the White House sees the popular new pontiff and his emphasis on the plight of the poor as a form of moral validation of the president’s economic agenda. When Obama delivered a major address on

the economy last month, he cited the growth of inequality across the developed world and made sure to note that “the pope himself spoke about this at eloquent length.”

The White House and the Vatican announced Tuesday that Obama will meet with the pope on March 27 during a four-day European trip that includes a nuclear security summit in the Netherlands and a U.S.-European Union summit in Brussels. The meeting is the first between the president and Pope Francis.

Obama had an audience with the previous pope, Benedict XVI, in July 2009. At the time, the Vatican under-

scored the deep disagreement between them on abortion. Benedict gave the president a copy of a Vatican document on bioethics that asserted the church’s opposition to using embryos for stem cell research, cloning and in-vitro fertilization. Obama supports stem cell research.

Francis has made it clear that Catholic positions on homosexuality, same-sex marriage and abortion haven’t changed.

“But in his view those issues which create conflict need to be deemphasized a bit,” said John C. Green, a political scientist who specializes in religion and politics at the University of Akron.

Asia

State of emergency begins in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—Protesters vying to overthrow Thailand's government stayed on the streets Wednesday despite the start of a state of emergency in the capital that was imposed to cope with the nation's increasingly violent political crisis.

The emergency decree announced late Tuesday allows authorities to ban public gatherings, impose curfews and censor local news reports for the next 60 days.

But the government said it would not crack down on demonstrators who have seized sev-

eral patches of Bangkok, and life in the city continued as normal with tourist sites unaffected and no major deployment of extra security forces.

The state of emergency follows increasing attacks at protest sites for which the government and the protesters blame each other. Grenade attacks on Friday and Sunday killed one man and wounded more than 60 people alone, bringing the casualty toll since November to at least nine dead and 554 hurt.

The unrest has cast doubt over whether Feb. 2 elections,

which Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called to quell the crisis, will be held.

On Wednesday, the Election Commission was expected to request the Constitutional Court to issue a ruling on how and whether the ballot can be delayed.

Charupong Ruangsuan, caretaker Interior Minister, told The Associated Press the vote should go ahead and the Election Commission should not use the state of emergency as an excuse to postpone the poll.

"They can use any excuses

all they want, but their duty is to hold the election," he said. "They may accuse the government of causing problems, but the government doesn't have any problems."

The emergency decree appeared to embolden the demonstrators. Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban vowed late Tuesday to continue demonstrating and questioned whether the declaration was justified, saying the protesters had been peaceful.

"Come and get us!" he cried.

"Whatever they warn us not to do, we will do," he declared. "We will march on the routes they ban. ... If they order us not to rally, we will be here indefinitely."

The protesters have been demanding Yingluck's resignation to make way for an appointed government to implement reforms to fight corruption, which they say must be implemented before any vote. The opposition

Democrat Party, closely aligned with the protesters, is boycotting the polls.

The protesters charge that Yingluck's government is carrying on the practices of Thaksin Shinawatra, her billionaire brother who was prime minister from 2001 to 2006, by using the family fortune and state funds to influence voters and cement its power. Thaksin was ousted by a military coup in 2006 after protests accused him of corruption and abuse of power. He fled into exile in 2008 to avoid a two-year prison sentence for a conflict of interest conviction.

Deputy Prime Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said Suthep's protesters "have constantly violated the law, especially in closing down government offices and banks and harassment against civil servants to prevent them from working."

He added the demonstrators "had gone overboard, and attacks were carried out by ill-intentioned people, causing people to be injured and killed, affecting the country's stability."

Deputy army spokesman Col. Winthai Suvaree said the military would support the government and supply forces as needed.

In Washington, the State Department said the U.S. strongly condemns increasing violence, and urged Thai authorities to investigate the attacks and bring those responsible to justice.



Anti-government protesters gather before a march through the streets of Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014.

Thousands flee volcanic eruption in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (DPA)—A volcano on the Indonesian island of Sumatra erupted Sunday for the first time in 400 years, shooting black smoke and ash up into the air and prompting the evacuation of thousands of residents.

Mount Sinabung in the Karo district of North Sumatra province thundered to life shortly after midnight, shooting lava and other volcanic materials from its crater.

The government's Directorate of Vulcanology upgraded the volcano's danger status to the highest level minutes before the eruption of the peak, located northwest of Jakarta.

Using trucks, ambulances and buses, local authorities evacuated thousands of residents living in nearby hamlets immediately after the eruption, the state-run Antara news agency reported.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Local media quoted residents as saying lava was visible from several miles away, including in Berastagi, a tourist area in North Sumatra, while volcanic dust reached as far as the provincial capital of Medan.

More than 10,000 people in

Fleeing a volcano

Thousands of people have been evacuated from northern Sumatra in Indonesia as the volcano Mount Sinabung has repeatedly erupted since September and again this week.



Source: ESRI, AP, USGS

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17 communities were evacuated, said Muhammad Irsal, a Red Cross worker deployed to the area. They took refuge in government buildings and tents were also erected, Irsal said.

"At midnight, there was a strong shock—believed to be a volcanic earthquake," Irsal said. "Immediately after, we saw

lava come down from the peak of Sinabung, and fire began to burn the forest at the foot of the mountain."

He said thick smoke had reduced visibility.

Firman, a weather forecaster, said the eruption had so far not disturbed flights at Medan's airport.



Trouble in Thailand

The Thai government has imposed a 60-day state of emergency in Bangkok and surrounding provinces to deal with protesters, who aim to remove Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from office.

Population 67 million (2013 estimate)

GDP per person \$10,300 (2012); primarily industry and services

Government Constitutional monarchy

Brief history Kingdom known as Siam until 1939; bloodless revolution led to constitutional monarchy in 1932; never taken over by a European power

Yellow Shirts vs. Red Shirts

Key events in current conflict

- **2006** Yellow Shirts' protest leads to ouster of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup
- **Dec. 2007** Thaksin allies, the Red Shirts, win elections
- **Aug. 2008** Thaksin flees into self-imposed exile
- **Dec. 2008** Mass Yellow Shirt protests paralyze Bangkok; Thaksin-allied government fails, Abhisit Vejjajiva comes to power
- **March-May 2010** Thaksin supporters occupy parts of Bangkok; dozens killed

- **July 2011** Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, leads Pheu Thai party to general election win
- **Nov. 2013** Anti-government street protests begin
- **Dec. 2013** Yingluck calls for election in February
- **Jan. 21, 2014** State of emergency declared; protesters accuse the government of being run by Thaksin

Source: CIA World Factbook, BBC, ESRI

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Report links Chinese elite to offshore tax havens

BEIJING (AP)—Relatives of China's president and other business and political leaders are linked to companies in offshore tax havens that "helped shroud the communist elite's wealth," a U.S.-based journalism group said Wednesday.

The report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists might fuel politically awkward attention on President Xi Jinping's family and its wealth at a time when Xi has made fighting corruption a theme of his leadership.

Complaints that relatives of China's leaders abuse their positions to profit from real estate and other deals are widespread. But details on their activities, especially those at the highest party levels, are often hidden.

The ICIJ, based in Washington, said it obtained documents showing the identities of nearly 22,000 owners of companies and trusts in the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and other offshore centers. It said they include Xi's brother-in-law, former Premier Wen Jiabao's son and son-in-law

and relatives of other ruling party figures.

"Close relatives of China's top leaders have held secretive offshore companies in tax havens that helped shroud the communist elite's wealth," the group said.

Chinese authorities moved quickly to block the country's public from seeing Wednesday's report. Access to the ICIJ website was blocked, as were foreign news reports about it. A reporter posted an Internet link to the report on the popular Sina Weibo microblog service but received a message from the company saying other users were blocked from seeing it.

Such offshore entities are legal and often are used by Chinese companies to control foreign subsidiaries, but activists and investigators believe corrupt officials also might use them to hide improperly obtained money.

"Most Chinese leaders and CCPC (Communist Party) members have planned their escape decades ago," said a comment left by a reader on

the website of the Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post. "It's all about exploiting the resources and people in China to benefit the privileged few."

The report gave no financial details and stressed that ICIJ was not suggesting anyone named has "broken the law or otherwise acted improperly." The group said it would release a full list of names on Thursday.

Communist leaders are intensely sensitive to suggestions they have profited from China's economic boom. The ruling party insists public scrutiny of their financial affairs is not permitted.

Complaints about the lavish lifestyles of officials, Communist Party figures and military officers who drive luxury cars, own villas and send their children to elite foreign universities have fueled political tensions.

Police have detained activists who called for party leaders to disclose their family wealth to China's ceremonial parliament.

The ICIJ's list could prompt heightened scrutiny of the individuals mentioned.

World

Brutality of Syria war casts doubt on peace talks

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's conflict was sparked by an act of brutality—the detention and torture of schoolchildren who spray-painted anti-government graffiti in a southern city. In the three years since, the conflict has evolved into one of the most savage civil wars in decades.

The atrocities have been relentless. Protesters gunned down in the streets. An opposition singer whose vocal cords were carved out. Beheadings and mass sectarian killings. Barrels full of explosives dropped from warplanes onto bakeries and homes.

It will be hard enough to find a political solution to Syria's crisis at an international peace conference convening in Switzerland on Wednesday, given the vast differences between the government of Syrian President

Bashar Assad and the opposition. But in a nation drowning in blood, reconciliation and justice over the atrocities seem even more distant.

"The ethical and moral fabric of this society has been stretched to beyond breaking point," said Amr al-Azm, a U.S.-based Syrian opposition figure and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio. "For a country to recover from such a traumatic rupture of the very glue that holds it together is not easy."

In the latest sign of the brutality, three prominent international war-crimes experts said they had received a huge cache of photographs documenting the killing of some 11,000 detainees by Syrian authorities.

David Crane, one of the three experts, told The Associated



In this Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012 file photo, A Syrian man injured by Syrian government shelling lies in a hospital bed in Aleppo, Syria.

AP

Who's going to the Syrian peace conference

Peace talks organized under the auspices of the United Nations begin in Montreux, Switzerland, then move to Geneva. The countries invited to attend:

- Invited to both Montreux and Geneva (30)
- Montreux only (9) Not shown: Holy See



Press that the cache provides strong evidence for charging Assad and others for crimes against humanity—but what happens next will be a political and diplomatic decision."

In the 55,000 digital images, smuggled out by an alleged defector from Syria's military police, the victims' bodies showed

signs of torture, including ligature marks around the neck and marks of beatings, while oth-

ers show extreme emaciation suggestive of starvation. The report—which was commissioned by the Qatar government, one of the countries most deeply involved in the Syrian conflict and a major backer of the opposition—could not be independently confirmed.

"It's chilling; it's direct evidence to show systematic killing of civilians," said Crane, former chief prosecutor of the

Special Court for Sierra Leone.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said Tuesday that the United States has focused too strongly on bringing the warring parties into peace talks at the expense of putting "real pressure" on the Assad government to end atrocities and hold to account those responsible. The group also accused Russia and China of shielding their ally Syria from concrete action at the United Nations.

"The mass atrocities being committed in Syria should be a parallel focus of the peace process," Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, told reporters Tuesday in Berlin.

For Syria watchers, the descent into the abyss was not inevitable, but the result of conscious decisions by a multitude of players.

"From day one, there was a level of violence used initially by the government in its suppression that was unprecedented," said Nadim Houry, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division. "Since the Balkan wars and Rwanda in the 1990s, we have rarely seen a conflict with that many people killed in such a short amount of time."

New videos of Toronto mayor emerge

TORONTO (AP)—A new video of Mayor Rob Ford emerged Tuesday that shows him swearing and slurring his words while apparently trying to imitate a Jamaican accent.

In the video—one of two new ones that have been posted on YouTube—Ford is shown in a fast food restaurant rambling and talking about police surveillance and calling police chief Bill Blair a derogatory name.

Ford, who said in November that he quit drinking, said outside his office Tuesday that he drank on Monday night "a little bit" and acknowledged it was him in the video. When asked if he also did drugs, Ford said no.

"I was with some friends and what I do in my personal life with my personal friends, that's up to me," Ford said. "It really has nothing to do with you guys."

Ford said he did not think the language he used was offensive or discriminatory.

"It's how I speak with some of my friends," he said.

The video is titled "New Video of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford Drunk, Swearing in Jamaican Patois? Bumbaclot."

"Chase me around for five months," the mayor says in the video.

"Leave me alone . and then try and tell me, we're counter-surveilling the guy. He's hiding

here, I'm hiding here. Oh, we don't know?" he says before rambling incoherently.

Mark Pugush, a spokesman for Police Chief Blair, said they don't respond to personal attacks.

A second video of Ford posted on YouTube and from inside the same restaurant, appears to show Ford sitting with his friend and former driver Alexander Lisi. Lisi faces trial on drug and extortion charges after police started an investigation into the mayor. It was not immediately clear if the video was also shot Monday night.

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who assumed some of the mayor's powers after the City Council stripped Ford of many of his duties year, urged Ford to seek professional help.

"He's got to do a lot of soul-searching in the next few days," Kelly said.

Ford said in November that he was finished with drinking alcohol after having a "come to Jesus moment." He snapped at reporters and denied he was drinking after pictures emerged last week of him at a night club.

Ford vowed in November that the public would never see a tape of him intoxicated again. He said he was working out and the mayor noticeably lost weight. He put his name on the ballot to run for another term

earlier this month.

Ford acknowledged last year that he smoked crack "in one of my drunken stupors" after police said they obtained a copy of a tape that appears to show him smoking crack. He refused to resign.

The City Council stripped Ford of most of his powers but lacked the authority to force him out because he wasn't convicted of a crime. The mayor was the subject of a police investigation but was never charged. According to police interviews, staffers accused Ford of frequently drinking.

City councilor Joe Mihevc said the latest tape appears to show that Ford has not stopped drinking and continues to be an embarrassment to the city of Toronto.

City Councilor Michael Thompson, who is black, said he was shocked. "Is that the mayor speaking Jamaican? Wow," Thompson said when reporters showed him the video. "I'm numb."

Thompson said the mayor's interpretation of "supposedly being Jamaican" was offensive. He called it a sad day and said the mayor needs to seek help.

"We've been fairly silent in just waiting for the next thing to occur," Thompson said. "I think we all had sort of concluded it was only a matter of time."

NOAA: World in 2013 was 4th hottest on record

WASHINGTON (AP)—Last year tied for the fourth hottest year on record around the globe.

The average world temperature was 58.12 degrees (14.52 Celsius) tying with 2003 for the fourth warmest since 1880, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday.

At the same time, NASA, which calculates records in a different manner, ranked last year as the seventh warmest on record, with an average temperature of 58.3 degrees (14.6 Celsius). The difference is related to how the two agencies calculate temperatures in the Arctic and other remote places and is based on differences that are in the hundredths of a degree, scientists said.

Both agencies said nine of the 10th warmest years on record have happened in the 21st century. The hottest year was 2010, according to NOAA.

The reports were released as

a big snowstorm was hitting the U.S. East Coast.

"There are times such as today when we can have snow even in a globally warmed world," said Gavin Schmidt, deputy director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York. "But the long term trends are not going to disappear ... Quite frankly people have a very short memory when it comes to climate and weather."

Those longer trends show the world has seen "fairly dramatic warming" since the 1960s with "a smaller rate of warming over the last decade or so," said Thomas Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. In the past 50 years, the world annual temperature has increased by nearly 1.4 degrees (0.8 degrees Celsius), according to NOAA data.

Unlike 2012, much of the worst heat and biggest climate disasters last year were

outside the U.S. Parts of central Asia, central Africa and Australia were record warm. Only a few places, including the central U.S., were cooler than normal last year.

Temperatures that were only the 37th warmest for the nation last year. That followed the warmest year on record for the U.S.

Last year, the world had 41 billion-dollar weather disasters, the second highest number behind only 2010, according to insurance firm Aon Benfield, which tracks global disasters. Since 2000, the world has averaged 28 such billion dollar disasters, which are adjusted for inflation.

Nearly half of last year's biggest weather disasters were in Asia and the Pacific region, including Typhoon Haiyan, which killed at least 6,100 people and caused \$13 billion in damage to the Philippines and Vietnam.

Environment

Study: China's industry exporting air pollution to US

By **TONY BARBOZA**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

China's export industry is responsible for dirty emissions that are blowing across the Pacific Ocean and contributing to smog in the United States, a new scientific study says.

About one-fifth of the pollution China spews into the atmosphere comes from producing goods for export to the United States and other countries, according to the paper by a group of scientists that was published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Winds blow pollutants from Chinese power plants and factories across the Pacific in about six days, where they boost levels of smog in the United States.

Los Angeles and parts of the eastern U.S. experienced at least one extra day of smog that exceeded federal health standards for ozone in 2006 as a result of emissions from export manufacturing in China, the study found.

"Rising emissions produced in China are a key reason global emissions of air pollutants have remained at a high level during 2000-2009 even as emissions produced in the United States, Europe and Japan have decreased," the scientists wrote. "Outsourcing production to Chi-

na does not always relieve consumers in the United States—or, for that matter, many countries in the Northern Hemisphere—from the environmental impacts of air pollution."

Nine scientists in the United States, China and the United Kingdom used data from 2006 to quantify how much of the air pollution reaching the U.S. West Coast from China is from the production goods for export to the United States and other countries. Scientists followed the path of air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides carbon monoxide and black carbon, through the atmosphere to gauge their effects on air quality in the United States.

While the United States has reaped some of the benefits of outsourcing—cheaper cell-phones, televisions and appliances and big declines in air pollution—rising emissions in China have paralyzed cities there with severe smog.

The paper is a reminder that U.S. demand for cheap imports from China has a way of blowing those environmental problems back at us, said Steve Davis, an Earth system scientist at the University of California, Irvine, and co-author of the study.

"It's sort of a boomerang effect," he said.

Davis expressed hope that the findings would be used by

world governments working to craft international agreements to limit emissions of carbon dioxide that are driving climate change as well as short-lived air pollutants that are responsible for poor air quality around the globe.

Even in mid afternoon, the air was hazy in Beijing on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014.

STUART LEAVENWORTH/MCT



1,004 white rhinos poached in S.Africa in 2013, worst yet

By **CAROL J. WILLIAMS**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The world's largest surviving population of white rhinos suffered its heaviest toll on record last year when poachers killed more than 1,000 of the threatened animals to feed an international market for trinkets and potions made from their horns.

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs reported Friday that it had counted 1,004 rhinos killed by poachers in 2013, mostly in Kruger National Park, along the porous border with Mozambique.

It was the worst year for rhinoceros poaching since the government began tracking the illegal hunting in the early 1900s, National Geographic reported.

South Africa is home to more than 20,000 white rhinos, about 80 percent of the world's population of the iconic beasts that numbered 500,000 a century ago, conservation organizations report.

Soaring demand for rhino

horn from Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam, is driving up prices for the slain animals' signature feature, nurturing an illegal poaching network operating out of Mozambique, explained Tom Milliken, rhinoceros expert with the global wildlife trade monitoring organization TRAFFIC.

"South Africa and Mozambique must decisively up their game if they hope to stop this blatant robbery of southern Africa's natural heritage," Milliken said, calling on authorities to make 2014 "the turning point where the world, collectively, says 'enough is enough' and brings these criminal networks down."

In its quest to protect rhinos from poachers, the South African government has signed agreements with China and Vietnam to better coordinate their tracking and enforcement efforts. Similar agreements are in the works with Mozambique, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Hong Kong, TRAFFIC said on its website.

In Loving Memory of the First Year Death Anniversary



Of the Late Former Mayor of Saipan

Mr. Juan Borja Tudela

We, the children and his wife, Mrs. Antonia Masga Tudela cordially invite all our families, relatives and friends to joins us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved father and husband, the late Mr. Juan Borja Tudela.

Daily Mass of Intention will be offered at San Jose Church

Mass Schedule:

January 25, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

January 26, 2014 – 7:30 a.m.

January 27, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

January 28, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

January 29, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

January 30, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

January 31, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

February 1, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.

February 2, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 7:30p.m., at the family's residence in Garapan, on Saturday, January 25 through Saturday, February 01, 2014.

We appreciate your presence and prayers.

**Thank very much from his wife,
Antonia Masga Tudela and Children.**



Life & Style

Grammy predictions: Macklemore? Kendrick? Lorde?

By CHRIS TALBOTT
and MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITERS

Kendrick Lamar vs. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. Lorde vs. Katy Perry. “Get Lucky” vs. “Blurred Lines” a.k.a. Pharrell vs. Pharrell.

There are so many tough choices this year at the Grammy Awards, where Jay Z is the top nominee with nine, but may not be the favorite to take the most trophies when the show airs live Sunday on CBS at 8 p.m. EST from The Staples Center in Los Angeles. Lamar, Macklemore and Lewis, Justin Timberlake and Pharrell Williams are next with seven, but none is guaranteed a trophy in what must have been a tough year for voters—and has been for us as The Associated Press tries to sort out the mess.

Here are a few tips for this year’s office pool:

ALBUM OF THE YEAR: “The Blessed Unrest,” Sara Bareilles; “Random Access Memories,” Daft Punk; “good kid, m.A.A.d city,” Kendrick Lamar; “The Heist,” Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; “Red,” Taylor Swift.

FEKADU: Justin Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience” doesn’t even have a 20 percent chance to win this—though it should. And why isn’t Bruno Mars’ “Unorthodox Jukebox” on the list? I can’t deal. Putting my personal feelings aside, this is how it will work: While Taylor Swift had earth-shattering numbers, Sara Bareilles created a top-notch, memorable album, and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis owned 2013, they won’t win here. That leaves Daft Punk and Kendrick Lamar—who is like a second coming to hip-hop. If “Random Access Memories” was a little stronger, it would win, but I think the Recording Academy—after failing to properly award amazing rap records in the top categories—will get it right with a win for Lamar. “Poetic Justice,” indeed!

TALBOTT: Don’t be daft, punk! Looking back over the history of the Grammys, the usual winner in this category is that year’s “event” album. Those records got attention beyond the quality of the music for some reason or another. With all due deference to Taylor Swift’s popularity, the album that felt like an event in this group is Daft Punk’s “Random Access Memories.” It didn’t yield as many hits as “Red”—one of three albums on this list that came out way back in 2012, a limiting factor for all. But few albums had as much ink spilled over them this year. Score one for the robots.

RECORD OF THE YEAR: “Get Lucky,” Daft Punk featuring Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers; “Radioactive,” Imagine Dragons; “Royals,” Lorde; “Locked Out of Heaven,” Bruno Mars; “Blurred Lines,” Robin Thicke featuring T.I. and Pharrell.

TALBOTT: Oh, Lorde, this one’s easy. “Get Lucky” and “Blurred Lines” had their runs, but Lorde finished the year in the strongest position as Grammy voters were filling out their final ballots. Those other two songs were sexy—or depending on your point of view, sketchy—come-ons, and felt like distant memories of one-night stands as the year closed. Lorde, on the other hand, offered something of an anthem for the dispossessed, an antidote to the swagification of pop music. Listeners took note, and I think Grammy voters did, too.

FEKADU: You have a strong argument, Talbott, but I also think Lorde may be too new to win this—shoot, she was too new for a best new artist nomination. That’s the same deal for Imag-

ine Dragons. Mars’ hit, while epic, might seem too old, which leaves us with two Pharrell-laced bangers. “Get Lucky” wins this because it features a legend, a super-respected musical duo and it wasn’t sued by Marvin Gaye’s children. Can’t wait to see their suits.

SONG OF THE YEAR (songwriters): “Just Give Me a Reason,” Pink, Nate Ruess and Jeff Bhasker; “Locked Out of Heaven,” Bruno Mars, Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine; “Roar,” Katy Perry, Lukasz Gottwald, Max Martin, Bonnie McKee and Henry Walter; “Royals,” Lorde and Joel Little; “Same Love,” Macklemore, Ryan Lewis and Mary Lambert.

FEKADU: I think the real competition is between “Just Give Me a Reason” and “Same Love.” Pink’s duet with Nate Ruess, who won this award for “We Are Young” with fun. last year, is a rousing number and a win like this for Pink is deserving after she’s impressed us year after year. “Same Love,” though, was a social anthem and more than a year after it was released, it still provides the chills when Macklemore begins his verse. Who am I kidding? “Same Love” wins this.

TALBOTT: History tells us sometimes the hits win. Sometimes the winner has become an anthem in some way. And sometimes it’s a right-field entry you may not have expected. I think this is where The Recording Academy shows its love for progressive, open-hearted messages and rewards Macklemore & Ryan Lewis for a song that was a lot of all three.

NEW ARTIST: James Blake; Kendrick Lamar; Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; Kacey Musgraves; Ed Sheeran.

TALBOTT: This category is and always has been baffling. This is a strong group, but how could Lorde not be nominated? Historically best new artist has been impossible to predict, and this year’s nominees are all over the board. While I personally feel Kendrick Lamar has the best long-term prospects



In this Nov. 20, 2012 file photo, American musician Ben Haggerty, better known by his stage name Macklemore, right, and his producer Ryan Lewis pose for a portrait at Irving Plaza in New York.

among these entries, I think voters are focused on Macklemore and Lewis and their dazzling year and will give the nod to the Seattle rap duo.

FEKADU: If Ed Sheeran released a sophomore album this year as gratifying as his 2011 debut, this would be his trophy. But you’re right about Macklemore and Lewis winning this.

POP SOLO PERFORMANCE: “Brave,” Sara Bareilles; “Royals,” Lorde; “When I Was Your Man,” Bruno Mars; “Roar,” Katy Perry; “Mirrors,” Justin Timberlake

FEKADU: Oh wait, Justin is nominated for something? It’s crushing how he didn’t earn any top nominations this year—it almost makes you wonder who he irritated? Anyhow, it will be a cat fight full of roars: While Bareilles deserves to win here—her copycat, Katy Perry—will take home her first Grammy Award.

TALBOTT: Ah, the positive pop song. Even in today’s raunch-obsessed music scene, there’s nothing quite as powerful as an empowering song like “Roar.” The problem for Perry, though, is Lorde stole her growl.

ROCK ALBUM: “13,” Black Sabbath; “The Next Day,” David Bowie; “Mechanical Bull,” Kings of Leon; “Celebration Day,” Led Zeppelin; “... Like Clockwork,” Queens of the Stone Age; “Psychodelic Pill,” Neil Young & Crazy Horse.

TALBOTT: This category makes me feel old—and conflicted. Do we go with the four beloved legacy acts who didn’t put out the best albums of their careers but sure get credit for trying? Or do we go with the more current acts who are certainly deserving of their own moments? I’m thinking Zeppelin, Sabbath, Bowie and Young cancel each other out and voters already feel like they’ve rewarded the Kings. So I’m picking the true long shot here, and the band that put out the year’s best rock album: Queens of the Stone Age.

FEKADU: I just hope that David Bowie shows up when he wins this award. Don’t want him to become the Maggie Smith of awards shows.

R&B SONG: “Best of Me,” Anthony Hamilton; “Love and War,” Tamar Braxton; “Only One,” PJ Morton featuring Stevie Wonder; “Pusher Love Girl,” Justin Timber-

lake; “Without Me,” Fantasia featuring Missy Elliott and Kelly Rowland.

FEKADU: If Stevie Wonder had a writing credit for “Only One,” PJ Morton—the keyboardist for Maroon 5—would win this. And while Tamar Braxton had an impressive year thanks to her reality show, we all know this will go to the former N’Sync frontman.

TALBOTT: The Recording Academy sent Timberlake mixed messages with his large nomination total but lack of a major nod. Here’s where voters make nice.

RAP ALBUM: “Nothing Was the Same,” Drake; “Magna Carta Holy Grail,” Jay Z; “good kid, m.A.A.d city,” Kendrick Lamar; “The Heist,” Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; “Yeezus,” Kanye West.

TALBOTT: On the surface this is a cutthroat category, but it’s really a two-rapper race. Drake, winner of last year’s Grammy in this category, Jay Z and West have all been saluted before. And Macklemore and Lewis will figure in the overall categories, leaving the bedrock hip-hop voters free to go with their hearts. Lamar spent a good portion of the year proclaiming himself the greatest, and we agree.

FEKADU: Kendrick’s verse on “Control” foreshadowed his win here. Maybe next year, Kanye?

COUNTRY SONG: “Begin Again,” Taylor Swift; “I Drive Your Truck,” Lee Brice; “Mama’s Broken Heart,” Miranda Lambert; “Merry Go ‘Round,” Kacey Musgraves; “Mine Would Be You,” Blake Shelton.

FEKADU: Musgraves is a bright newcomer nominated twice in this category since she co-wrote Miranda Lambert’s hit. However, she’ll win the gold for her own song Sunday night.

TALBOTT: Here’s where I go all Nate Silver on you, Mesfin. Looking at the records, a blonde has won this award every year since 2005 (if you count Lady Antebellum’s Charles Kelley and Rascal Flatts’ Gary LeVox, and we certainly do). So let’s narrow that field right on down to Swift and Miranda Lambert. Now, add in the fact that Lambert and Musgraves have been splitting votes in the country song categories of other awards show—I see no reason that trend will change—and that leaves Swift an easy winner. Maybe the night’s top winner—if Mesfin and I are wrong. Nobody around here’s predicting that, though.

Opera star to sing national anthem at Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—The Super Bowl will have a touch of the classical this year: Opera star Renee Fleming will sing the national anthem.

The four-time Grammy winner will perform before the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks play at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on Feb. 2. Fleming is the first opera star to sing the national anthem at the Super Bowl. In recent years, it has been performed mainly by a mix of pop and country stars.

Known as “The People’s Diva,” the soprano is closely identified with the New York City region, having spent years singing on iconic stages such as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Last year, she received the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor the government gives to artists.

Fleming, who lives in New York City, sang the national anthem before Game 2 of the 2003 World Series at Yankee Stadium.



This March 19, 2012 file photo shows opera singer Renee Fleming in the rotunda of the State of Illinois building, the James R. Thompson Center, in Chicago.

Celebs flock to honor Ringo Starr before Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ringo Starr got an early start to Grammy week, with famous friends honoring him for his life and work.

The former Beatle received the Lifetime of Peace and Love award from the David Lynch Foundation on Monday night during a tribute concert at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles.

In turn, Starr led the crowd in singing happy birthday to Lynch, the director known for “Blue Velvet” and “Mulholland Drive,” who was celebrating his 68th birthday.

Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono expressed their love for Starr via videos, while George Harrison’s widow, Olivia, was in the crowd. Starr and McCartney will perform separately at Sunday’s Grammy Awards.

“It’s a weird place to be this

evening,” Starr said onstage. “All this praise is overwhelming really. It’s really great to look out and see all these people I recognize and three of them are meditating.”

Lynch’s foundation helps provide scholarships to teach transcendental meditation — a practice the Beatles dabbled in — to at-risk youth, veterans and domestic violence victims.

“Everybody loves Ringo,” Lynch said. “Not just because he’s a Beatle, not just because he’s one of the tastiest drummers ever, but because he radiates that peace and love.”

Don Was served as musical director for the all-star house band that included Peter Frampton, drummer Kenny Aronoff, former Toto guitarist Steve Lukather and keyboardist Benmont Tench of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

“It’s a great little band,” Starr said. “I know them all personally.”

Jesse Elliott and Lindsay Giles of Ark Life kicked off the show with a duet of “Can’t Do It Wrong.” The Head and the Heart paid homage to the Beatles on “Octopus’s Garden” before Brendan Benson sang “Don’t Go Where the Road Don’t Go.” Starr watched from the audience, bobbing his head to the beat.

Bettye LaVette offered up a soulful take on “It Don’t Come Easy” after noting her 50th anniversary in the music business. “This is the baddest band I’ve had in the entire 50 years,” she said.

Ben Folds tore through “Oh My My,” resembling a mad scientist as he pounded the electric keyboard.

“It’s very rare I play an ironing board for you, and it’s only for Ringo and David,” Folds joked.

Family: SeaWorld trainer thought whales treated OK

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—The family of a SeaWorld trainer who died in 2010 when a killer whale pulled her into the water responded Tuesday to a documentary critical of animal captivity at the marine parks, saying the woman killed would never have worked there for 15 years if she thought the whales were treated badly.

Trainer Dawn Brancheau’s family members said on the website for The Dawn Brancheau Foundation that they’ve been repeatedly asked about how they feel about the documentary “Blackfish” since its release last year. They say they continue to support her former co-workers who still train with the marine animals.

Since the documentary, several entertainers have pulled out of planned performances at the parks.

Brancheau was grabbed and drowned by the six-ton killer whale, Tilikum, after a show in February 2010. The documentary examines Tilikum’s background and is critical of keeping whales in captivity.

Separately, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration confirmed Tuesday that they were looking into reports that OSHA inspector Lara Padgett, who helped investigate Brancheau’s death, had fraternized with the makers of “Blackfish” at film festivals around the nation.

“OSHA is committed to fair and effective enforcement of safety and health requirements in the workplace,” spokesperson Jesse Lawder said in an email. “Allegations involving employee conduct are taken seriously and OSHA is investigating.”

Husband enlists Hemingway in campaign to have an affair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 36. My husband is 60. We have been together for 10 years. During the first four years we got along great, but he now says he wants to have affairs.

He texts women and tries to hide it from me. I found out he was texting his first ex-wife. It made me uncomfortable, so I asked him to stop. He didn’t. When I realized he hadn’t, I told him I would leave if it happens again. This kind of behavior has been going on for more than half our marriage.

I am at the point where I don’t want to cuddle or be affectionate with him at all. He commented the other day that he should be allowed to have an affair because I mentioned that I find Hemingway interesting. (He was known for affairs.)

I’m at a loss. I care for my husband and don’t want to hurt him. But I’m also scared that I can’t afford to be on my own. A little advice?

UNSURE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR UNSURE: Hemingway was also known for his drinking and big-game hunting. Is your husband considering doing those things, too?

If ever I heard of a couple who could benefit from marriage counseling, it’s you two. As it stands, your marriage is broken. Counseling may help. If it doesn’t and you don’t have a job, find one and figure out a way to cut your expenses so you CAN afford to be on your own, because it looks like you will be.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an esthetician who works as a waxing specialist. A customer of mine came in a short while ago and admitted to driving to my salon while drunk. She mentioned she had almost crashed her car getting here, and I could smell the liquor on her breath.

She is one of my regular customers, but I am very against drunk driving. How would I professionally handle this? I wanted to report it, but I didn’t know what car she was driving or where she was headed. How should this be handled in the future?

CONFLICTED IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CONFLICTED: Because you know the woman well, you might say, “You nearly crashed your car getting here. I care about you too much to let you drive home like this. I’m calling you a taxi. Pick up your car tomorrow.”

When she’s sober again and comes in for her next appointment, tell her how worried you were about her. There are two ways to lose a customer. One is by offending her. The other is by letting her kill herself behind the wheel because she’s so drunk she can’t see straight. So let your conscience guide you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a condition that causes constant migraines. A new neighbor heard about my illness and is determined to become my second mother. She continually tries to visit, call and text even though my husband and I have asked her not to.

I dislike hurting people. How can I get her to stop her stalkerish behavior without making this old lady my enemy?

MY OTHER HEADACHE’S A NEIGHBOR

DEAR OTHER HEADACHE: Stop asking and TELL this well-meaning woman that she’s making your condition worse by continuing to call, text and visit. And while you’re at it, tell her that when you’re ready for company, you will contact her—but only when you’re feeling well enough to chat. If she persists after that, don’t answer her calls and refuse her visits.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

CHART TOPPERS	
The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Jan 19, 2014:	
TOP PAID IPHONE APPS	
1. "Heads Up!", Warner Bros.	
2. "Minecraft - Pocket Edition", Mojang	
3. "Slow Shutter Cam", Cogitap Software	
4. "Cut the Rope 2", ZeptoLab UK Limited	
5. "Afterlight", Simon Filip	
6. "Plague Inc.", Ndemic Creations	
7. "Sleep Cycle alarm clock", Northcube AB	
8. "7 Minute Workout Challenge", Fitness Guide Inc	
9. "Traffic Racer", Soner Kara	
10. "Survival Games - Mine Mini Game With Minecraft Skin Exporter (PC Edition) & Multiplayer", JoyDo Entertainment	
TOP FREE IPHONE APPS	
1. "Flappy Bird", Dong Nguyen	
2. "PAC-MAN", NAMCO BANDAI Games	
3. "Fail Hard", Fingersoft	
4. "Spark Camera", IDEO	
5. "Ted Ginn: Kick Return", DoubleTap Software	
6. "Snapchat", Snapchat, Inc.	
7. "QuizUp: The Biggest Trivia Game In The World!", Plain Vanilla Corp	
8. "YouTube", Google, Inc.	
9. "Clash of Clans", Supercell	
10. "Facebook Messenger", Facebook, Inc.	
TOP PAID IPAD APPS	
1. "Minecraft - Pocket Edition", Mojang	
2. "Cut the Rope 2", ZeptoLab UK Limited	
3. "Survival Games - Mine Mini Game With Minecraft Skin Exporter (PC Edition) & Multiplayer", JoyDo Entertainment	
4. "Joe Danger Infinity", Hello Games	
5. "Pixel Gun 3D - Block World Pocket Survival Shooter with Skins Maker for minecraft (PC edition) & Multiplayer", Alex Krasnov	
6. "Battle Supremacy", Atypical Games	
7. "Heads Up!", Warner Bros.	
8. "Ski Safari: Adventure Time", Cartoon Network	
9. "Toca Hair Salon 2", Toca Boca AB	
10. "Hide N Seek : MC Mini Game With Worldwide Multiplayer", wang wei	
TOP FREE IPAD APPS	
1. "PAC-MAN", NAMCO BANDAI Games	
2. "Calculator for iPad Free", International Travel Weather Calculator	
3. "LEGO City My City", The LEGO Group	
4. "Farm Heroes Saga", King.com Limited	
5. "Netflix", Netflix, Inc.	
6. "YouTube", Google, Inc.	
7. "Spark Camera", IDEO	
8. "Flappy Bird", Dong Nguyen	
9. "Little Ear Doctor - kids games", George CL	
10. "Mega Jump 2", Get Set Games	

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

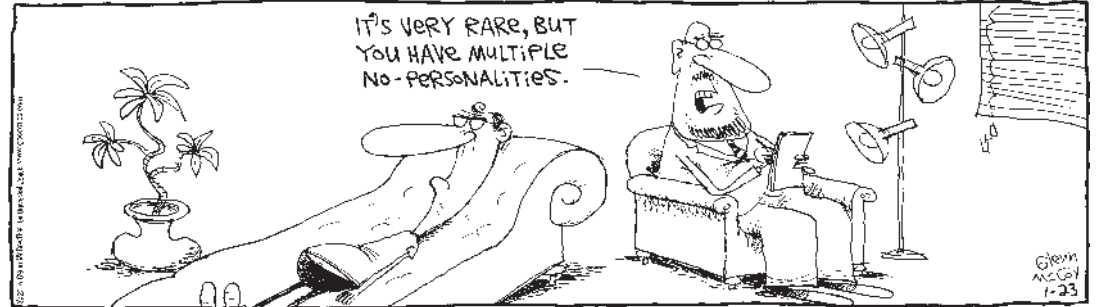
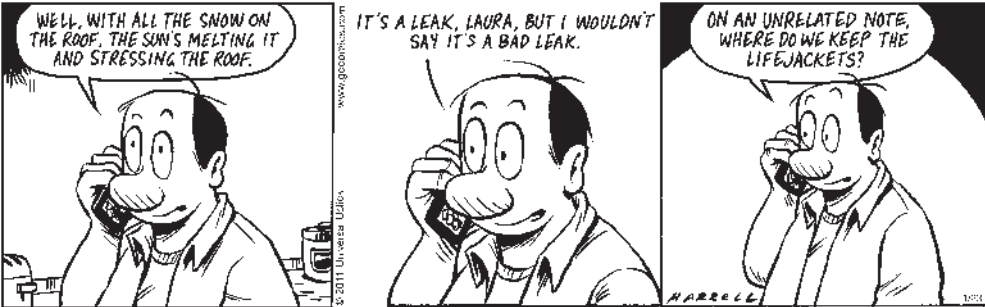


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

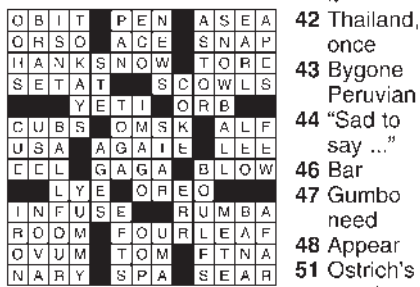


CROSSWORD

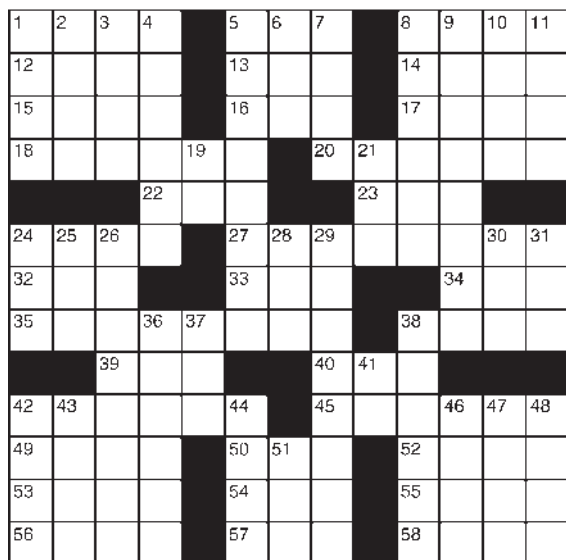
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 5 You can't stand to have one
- 8 Detail, for short
- 12 Writer Quindlen
- 13 Raw rock
- 14 "Arrive-derci!"
- 15 Dance move
- 16 Fresh
- 17 Church section
- 18 Car wash task
- 20 Use caller ID
- 22 Homer's interjection
- 23 See 42-Across
- 24 Fly-by-night types?
- 27 Pertaining to snakes
- 32 Luau bowlful
- 33 Carnival city
- 34 Actress Vardalos
- 35 Laundry additive
- DOWN**
- 1 Morse "T"
- 2 Aware of
- 3 Change for a five
- 4 Canoeing challenge
- 5 Texas athlete
- 6 Exist
- 7 Church furniture
- 8 Frightened
- 9 Direct info
- 10 Relaxation
- 11 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
- 19 "Forget it!"
- 21 Movie-making trickery, for short
- 24 Harvest goddess
- 25 Court
- 26 From the cradle to the grave
- 28 Chart format
- 29 Lively folk
- 30 Melody
- 31 Kvetch constantly
- 36 Strings
- 37 Common Mkt.
- 38 Dental straighteners
- 41 "That explains it"
- 42 Thailand, once
- 43 Bygone Peruvian
- 44 "Sad to say ..."
- 46 Bar
- 47 Gumbo need
- 48 Appear
- 51 Ostrich's cousin

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-23



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 40; Mariska Hargitay, 50; Gail O'Grady, 51; Richard Dean Anderson, 64.

Happy Birthday: Dealing with legal, financial and health concerns must be done carefully to avoid backlash. Uncertainty will make you question and rethink pursuing an interest that could determine the path that will help you reach your life goals. Don't give up when you should be making the effort to embrace new beginnings. Don't let stubbornness defeat you. Your numbers are 3, 10, 19, 25, 32, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Showing signs of inconsistency will hinder your chance of success. Regroup and reconsider what you want to do. Someone from your past will help you figure out what direction to take. A partnership will experience emotional ups and downs. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your temper will surface if you have to deal with rules and regulations. Know all the ins and outs of a situation before you head into the eye of the storm. Make love, not war, and you will get better results. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gather information and you will find a way to use what you have to offer in a special way. Don't let anyone take advantage of you when it comes to your ideas. Make sure you are given proper credit and reimbursement. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep busy but don't take chances. Use your imagination and creativity to come up with fun

things to do and services to offer. A personal relationship needs to be nurtured or you may end up sharing harsh words. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself when it comes to personal encounters. Try something new that will occupy your time and get you heading in a direction less likely to end in a dispute with someone you love. Follow the rules. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Greater interaction will bring you plenty of information that will help you plan how you want to proceed with a project or investment that interests you. Romance is on the rise and a promise will improve your love life. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get chores done before someone complains. Once you have your responsibilities out of the way, you can move on to more enjoyable options, like getting together with someone you love or exploring new hobbies that ease your stress. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take physical action if it will help you achieve your goals. Getting involved in something that challenges you will reinforce your capabilities. Take steps to make your life more unique and to your liking and you will achieve happiness. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone will be honest with you. A money deal must be looked at carefully.

If the numbers don't add up, take a pass. An energetic offering of help will bring positive change to your home and family life. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A last-minute alteration from someone will make you leap into action. Don't get angry; just counter however you can to maintain balance so you can continue on your way. You'll impress someone with your stamina and control. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get down to business and clear up legal, financial or medical issues that have to be dealt with before you can move forward with your plans. Good times are apparent if you are willing to make a couple of changes. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sift through any matters that require secrecy or private attention. Look for a way to update your look, skills or goals to suit the changing times. A romantic encounter is likely to end in possessiveness, jealousy or an argument. Proceed with caution. ***

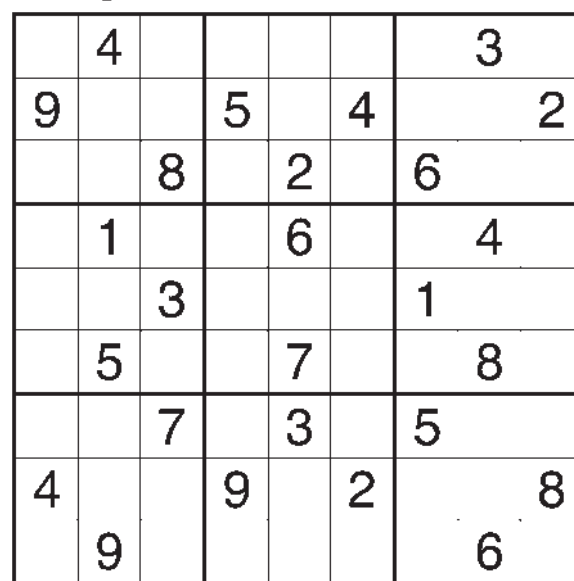
Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, unique and popular. You are helpful and a good friend.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

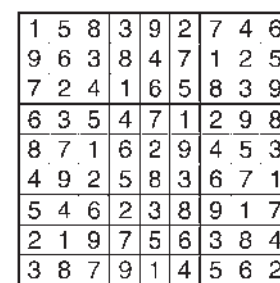


Difficulty Level ★★★

1/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

1/23

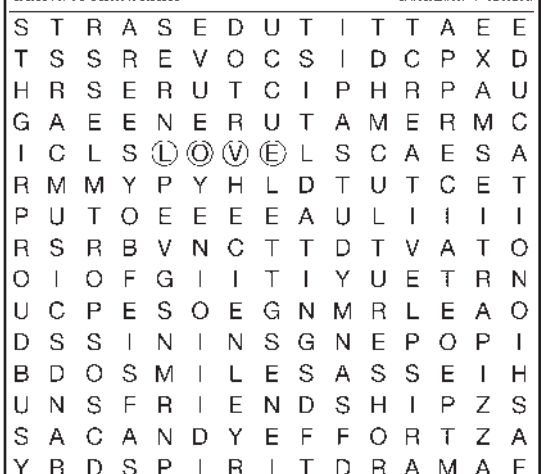
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEING A TEENAGER

Solution: 7 letters



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1/23
Appreciate, Arts, Attitude, Bands, Busy, Candy, Cars, Challenge, Creative, Cultures, Daring, Dating, Decisions, Discovers, Drama, Education, Effort, Exams, Expectations, Fashion, Friendship, Honest, Leader, Love, Mature, Movies, Music, Obey, Open, Parties, Pictures, Pizza, Proud, Respect, Rights, Smiles, Spirit, Sport, Study, Style, Times
Yesterday's Answer: Charlemagne

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at wonderword.universa.uclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Job Vacancy Announcement

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General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the entire operations of an e-gaming machine lounge, divisions, departments and/or all operating units. Plan, develop and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation. Produce maximum revenue levels. Perform other duties as assigned or as required.

Position Requirement: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related field and a certificate in gaming operations plus demonstrated experience & ability in managing an e-gaming operation, evidenced by several years managing live table games or e-gaming machines operation or several years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations and must be computer literate; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours including evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent and leadership skills.

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We are now accepting applicants that have positive attitude, energetic, outgoing, friendly, and has work experienced related to the following vacancies below. We are also seeking for individuals that have less supervision and have independent work ethic that can get alone with others, have attendance management, coachable, and hard working. They must be readied to work in full with the company policies and procedures.

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- Two (2) Housekeepers – a hard work ethic is a must with less supervision that can carry the work load and to accomplish it by the end of the shift. Be able to lift 30 lbs box, good attendance and reliable are a must. Must show work experience from previous employer.
- Two (2) Buyers – be able to purchase goods wisely for both on-island and off-island. Must be able to maintain stocks throughout the year with very minimum mistake. Accuracy is a mandatory, good attendance is a must, be able to lift 30 lbs box. Must be able to work with Microsoft Dynamics AX with less supervision.
- One (1) Information technologist – A bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with in-depth knowledge and experience in a variety of computer systems and technologies with emphasis on VB.Net, Visual Basic, HTML, Php strong SQL, PLSQL script skills. Strong skills in database administration with emphasis on DNS, RAID, volume management and many more. Must have experience in Microsoft Dynamics AX ERP and others will be asked during the interview.
- One (1) Team leader – Must have the ability to communicate, trust, respect, acceptance to the nature of the job. Must have the experience in AX system cash register, good in numbers and can be able to read and write in English. Good attendance is a must and can be flexible with schedules. Must be a trainer and be able to carry out the policies and procedures.
- One (1) Accountant – A bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Business Administration required. At least five years of responsible professional accounting experiences. Must be able to deal with Budget and Financial analysis and projection techniques, knowledge in Auditing principles and practices. Can be able to work independently without general supervision. Must have cooperative working relationships with superior and associates as well. Must be able to prepare monthly, yearly financial statement, monitor and maintain appropriate bank balances, reconcile bank statement, analysis cost, inventory, gain & loss, fees, payment. Must know accounts payable, account receivable and excellent in computer knowledge such as window excel/word. And must be professionally to operate Microsoft Dynamic AX – R2 and Quickbooks.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Durant scores 46, leads Thunder past Trail Blazers



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers braced themselves for a late onslaught from Kevin Durant. They still failed to stop him.

The 6-foot-9 forward scored 11 of his 46 points in the final 3:23 to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Trail Blazers 105-97 on Tuesday night.

"When the basket is an ocean, you can't really do much about it," Portland guard Wesley Matthews said. "He's been on a roll."

Durant has scored at least 30 points for eight consecutive games, the longest such streak of his career. He made 17 of 25 field goals, including 6 of 7 3-pointers.

"He did what he's been doing the last two weeks," Portland guard Damian Lillard said. "You look up, he's hitting 50 and 45 and 50 again and 40 and up. We knew coming in that he's been shooting the ball well."

Reggie Jackson added 15 points for Oklahoma City (32-10), which took a one-game lead over Portland in the Northwest Division. Oklahoma City improved to 9-5 since point guard Russell Westbrook was taken out of the lineup after having surgery on his right knee.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 16 rebounds, but he went 1-for-8 from the field in the fourth quarter. Durant said Aldridge's late struggles might have been a combination good defense by Kendrick Perkins and Serge Ibaka and the Trail Blazers being worn out from their loss to Houston the night before.

"Perk and Serge did a great job early on contesting LaMarcus' jump shot, but he's a great player and he was knocking them down," Durant said. "In the fourth quarter, of course, after playing last night, he's a little tired. We forced him all the way out close to the 3-point line and made him shoot some tough ones and we were able to rebound and hit shots on the other end."

Matthews added 21 points for Portland (31-11), which lost its last two games of a four-game road trip.

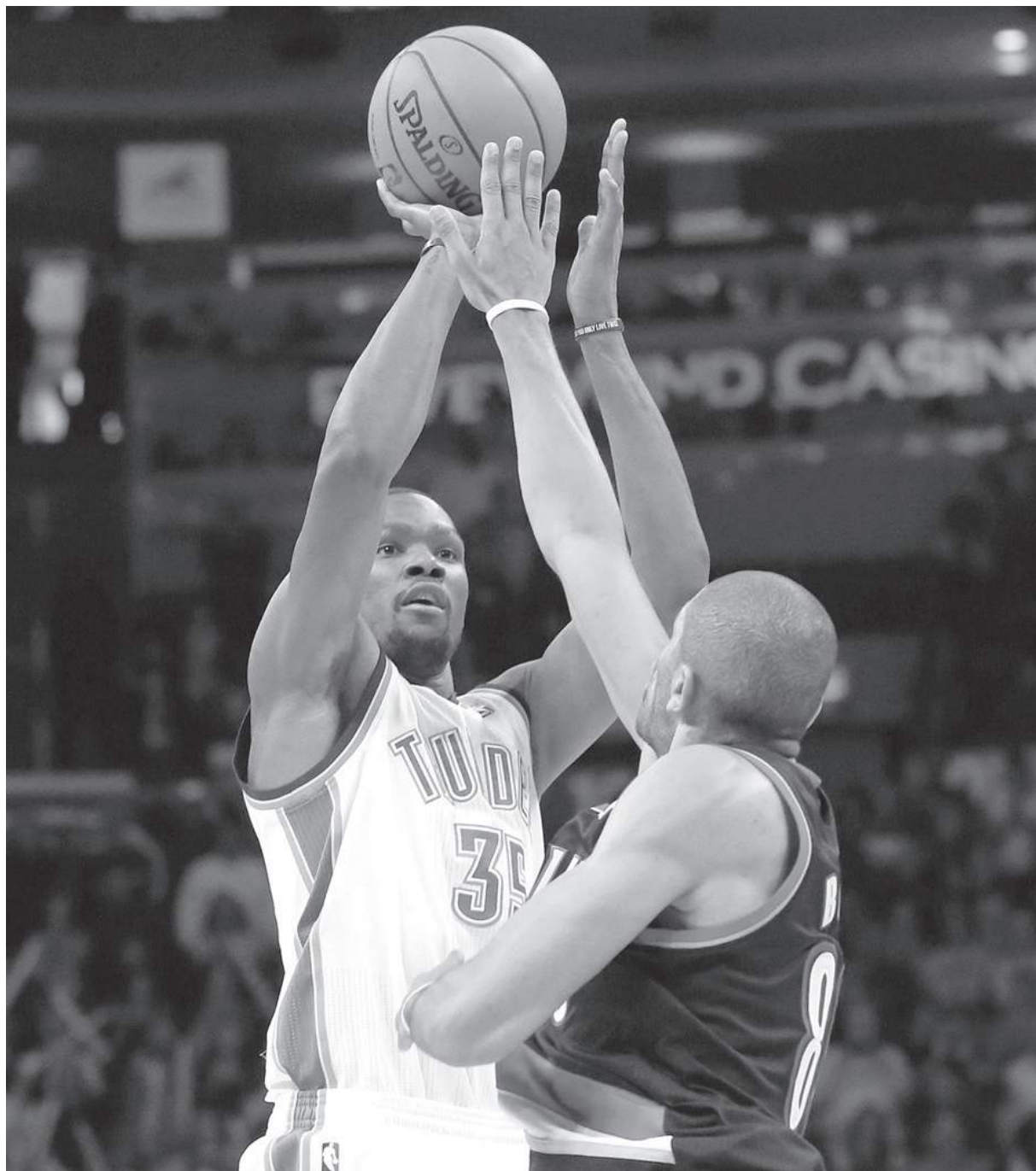
"Pissed," Matthews said. "We're not happy. Last year we were happy coming off a road trip at .500. We're not that team any more. We didn't come out with the right energy and the right mentality against Houston and they were ready for us. We came out with the right mentality early in this game and KD had a hell of a fourth quarter, so it's bitter."

Oklahoma City held Lillard to 14 points, well below his average of 21.4 points per game.

Portland led 93-90 when Durant was called for an offensive foul. Durant was unhappy after the call, and after Perkins was called for a foul, Durant, still frustrated, hit the scorer's table and was issued a technical foul. Portland made two of the three free throws to go up by five. A fired-up Durant responded with a layup, then a 3-pointer to tie the score with 2:52 remaining.

"It was really a stupid, stupid reaction by me," Durant said. "I could have hurt my team really badly. I was just more frustrated with myself, turning the ball over. I can't hurt my team like that. This time, it went in our direction. Next time, I've got to be smarter."

Durant seemed to reach another gear after the technical, though. He hit a 3 with 48 seconds left to give the Thunder



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Portland Trail Blazers forward Nicolas Batum, right, in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014.

a 102-95 lead, then another with 26.8 seconds remaining to ice the game.

Portland led 48-40 late in the second quarter before Durant sparked a rally with a 3-pointer. The Thunder took the lead with 8.3 seconds left in the first half on a jumper by Thabo Sefolosha, but Lillard responded with a layup with 0.2 seconds left to give the Trail Blazers a 52-51 lead at the break. Portland shot 57 percent in the first half. Durant scored 20 points on 8-for-11 shooting in the first half, but his teammates shot 13 for 38.

Durant's jumper early in the second half finally gave the Thunder the lead, but the Trail Blazers handled the surge. A 3-pointer by Nicolas Batum and a bucket from Aldridge gave Portland a 67-62 lead and caused Oklahoma City to call a timeout.

The Trail Blazers extended their lead to 75-66, but again, the Thunder closed out a quarter strong. Oklahoma City held Portland scoreless for the last 2:35 of the period. Durant hit a 3-pointer to close the quarter and give the Thunder a 77-75 lead.

Portland made just one field goal in the final 3:45.

"Total team effort," Durant said. "We didn't get discouraged after they hit tough shots and we missed shots, and we got a good win."

The Thunder play at San Antonio on Wednesday night with the top record in the Western Conference on the line.

"We know how tough it is to win there," Durant said. "We know how tough that team is. You've just got to

come prepared and with a lot of energy. I think our group is ready to come out there and play our game, and we'll see what happens."

Heat 93, Celtics 86

In Miami, LeBron James scored 11 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, Chris Bosh added 16 and the Heat blew an 18-point lead before rallying to beat the Celtics.

Chris Andersen scored 13 points and made all five of his shots for Miami, which ended the game on a 9-0 run.

Brandon Bass scored 15 points, Kris Humphries had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeff Green had 12 points for the Celtics, who outrebounded Miami 46-33 but shot only 39 percent.

Rajon Rondo, still coming around after returning from knee surgery, missed all eight of his shots, plus missed a pair of free throws with the Celtics down four with 44.4 seconds remaining. Avery Bradley, the Celtics' other starting guard, was lost in the second quarter with a sprained right ankle.

Nets 101, Magic 90

In New York, Andray Blatche came off the bench and had a team-high 18 points and reserve forward Mirza Teletovic added 14 points as the Nets beat the Magic for their eighth win in nine games.

One night after routing the cross-town rival New York Knicks, the Nets kept up the surge. Their 8-1 start in January is a NBA best after a disappointing 10-21 start to their second season in Brooklyn.

Joe Johnson and Paul Pierce each

had 13 points apiece for the Nets.

Kings 114, Pelicans 97

In New Orleans, Rudy Gay tied a career high with 41 points, and the Kings cruised to a victory over the Pelicans.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and 11 assists, while DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Kings, who've won five of eight.

Gay hit 16 of 25 shots, including 5 of 8 from 3-point range.

Tyreke Evans scored 17 for New Orleans, which trimmed a 23-point first-half deficit to six shortly before halftime, only to fall behind by 23 again in the third quarter.

Timberwolves 112, Jazz 97

In Salt Lake City, Kevin Love had 19 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to help the Minnesota Timberwolves run past Utah and sweep a home-and-home set with the Jazz.

Ricky Rubio has returned to his spontaneous, free-flowing style and had 11 points and 13 assists for the Wolves, who snapped a seven-game losing streak in Utah.

Corey Brewer scored 19 points and Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin each contributed 18. Each time the Jazz threatened to get close in the fourth quarter, J.J. Barea hit big baskets and had 15 points to keep the Jazz at bay.

Gordon Hayward returned from a five-game absence to lead the Jazz with 27 points, but he was the only starter in double figures.

Danilo Gallinari undergoes second ACL operation

Gallinari



DENVER (AP)—Danilo Gallinari has had a major setback in his return from left knee surgery, requiring a second operation Tuesday that will sideline him for the remainder of the season.

The Nuggets initially had hoped to have their star shooting forward back sometime this season, but "it was recently determined that the procedure that Danilo underwent on his knee this past summer was insufficient," Nuggets general manager Tim Connelly said in a statement.

His left anterior cruciate ligament was reconstructed Tuesday in Denver by team orthopedic surgeon Steve Traina.

"Knowing Danilo's drive and work ethic, we look forward to a full recovery and a healthy return to the court next season," Connelly said.

Gallinari, the Italian sharp-shooter who joined the Nuggets in the blockbuster Carmelo Anthony trade a few years back, hasn't played since blowing out his left knee in a game against Dallas last April 4.

His absence played a big role in another first-round playoff exit after a franchise-best 57-win regular season and the subsequent departure of long-time coach George Karl, who was replaced by Brian Shaw.

A roster shake-up also ensued and the Nuggets are 20-20, in 10th place in the Western Conference. They'll have to come on strong over the second half of the season to keep intact their string of 10 straight playoff appearances, and now they'll have to do it without Gallinari.

NBA BRIEFS

Pacers' Stephenson fined for flopping

NEW YORK (AP)—Indiana guard Lance Stephenson has been fined by the NBA for violating the league's anti-flopping rules for the second time this season. The \$5,000 penalty was announced on Tuesday. The violation occurred with 1:37 left in the Pacers' 102-94 victory at Golden State on Monday. The NBA instituted a crackdown on flopping prior to last season.

Heat guard Chalmers fined \$15,000

NEW YORK (AP)—Miami Heat guard Mario Chalmers was fined \$15,000 by the NBA on Friday for hitting Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin in the throat with a forearm Thursday night. The foul also was upgraded to a Flagrant Foul 2 from a common infraction. The incident occurred with 8:05 remaining in the third quarter of the Heat's 102-97 home victory.

Carroll says Sherman sorry rant overshadowed win



RENTON, Wash. (AP)—

Pete Carroll pulled Richard Sherman aside on Monday and made sure his fiery cornerback understood that his rant against San Francisco's Michael Crabtree was overshadowing the Seattle Seahawks reaching their second Super Bowl in franchise history. Sherman seemed to get Carroll's message.

"He was really clear that the last thing he wanted to do was take something away from our team, what we had accomplished," Carroll said.

Sherman became the focal point of attention—both positive and negative—after Seattle beat San Francisco 23-17 on Sunday to win the NFC championship.

Sherman was already going to be in the spotlight for what he did on San Francisco's final offensive play, twisting his body to deflect a pass intended for Crabtree into the air and allowing time for teammate Malcolm Smith to run over and make an interception in the end zone to clinch the Seahawks victory.

The athleticism on the play was worthy of praise. But Sherman's antics from that point drew praise from some for being honest and unfiltered, and criticism from others for being too harsh and combative.

"This is a very emotional kid and that's what drives him," Carroll said. "We did sit down and talk about it because I want him to present himself in his best light. He's an incredible kid."

"He has a great sense about things and understanding and sensitivity and awareness and he cares and he's a very thoughtful person so when he puts out those kind of thoughts he has to know what he's saying and understand it and I think he's very understanding at this point that he caused a stir that took away from the team."

Sherman had been rarely targeted by the 49ers, with most of Colin Kaepernick's passes being thrown in the direction of Byron Maxwell.

But in the final minute, Kaepernick decided to take a shot to the end zone with Crabtree and Sherman matched up one-on-one.

Sherman won the matchup, staying in position to deflect the pass and have it fall into Smith's hands, similar to a tipped interception from Sherman to safety Earl Thomas in Week 15 against the New York Giants.

Except this was far more meaningful, giving Seattle its second conference championship.

But Sherman didn't let the celebration end with Smith and his teammates.

Sherman ran over to Crabtree and gave him a pat on the backside, then appeared to extend his arm for a handshake.



Sales associate Jason Wong restocks Seattle Seahawks' jerseys during a busy day at the team store Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, in Seattle.

Instead, Sherman got shoved in the face before picking up his personal foul as his celebration continued. The taunt included a choking gesture in the direction of Kaepernick.

Asked about the incident afterward by Fox reporter Erin Andrews, Sherman lit up Twitter with a rant that began: "I'm the best corner in the game. When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you gonna get. Don't you ever talk about me!"

And Sherman didn't back down later, apologizing to Andrews but calling Crabtree "mediocre." He said his issues with Crabtree went back to an incident during the offseason.

Carroll said he viewed the situation as a father talking to his son and wanted Sherman to realize some more thought should have gone into what he was saying.

"There's some stuff in there I think you should think about and did you really want it to come out the way it did and talk our way through that," Carroll said. "And he didn't. He didn't feel right about that."

"There were a lot of great things that happened last night and we're talking about some other stuff."

For Carroll, the return to New York is heading back to where he got his start as a head coach in the NFL, albeit a short-lived tenure as the head coach of the Jets. Carroll was the Jets head coach for one season in 1994 before getting fired after a 6-10 season.

"I think my first time in New York as a head coach was kind of in the middle of the circle somewhere or maybe it wasn't even a circle, it might have been some other shape," Carroll joked. "It was kind of a hairy time."

Goodell suggests ditching the PAT kick

Roger Goodell doesn't want to stand pat with the PAT. He's suggesting potential changes in the extra point that, well, might have some legs.

The NFL commissioner says the extra point kick after

touchdowns, which had a success rate of nearly 100 percent in 2013, is too automatic.

And with few teams attempting 2-point conversion plays until desperation hits, the old 1-pointer from about

20 yards is the way coaches go.

So Goodell wonders if the league can add excitement by making some major adjustments to the extra point, suggesting perhaps making

a touchdown worth seven points, with teams having the option to run a play for another point.

But failing on that play would cost them a point. (AP)

Source: Players wanted A-Rod out of union



NEW YORK (AP)—Se-

veral angry major league players wanted Alex Rodriguez kicked out of their union after he sued it last week, but staff lawyers told them expulsion was not allowed.

The players spoke Jan. 13 during a Major League Baseball Players Association conference call after Rodriguez sued the union and Major League Baseball to overturn an arbitrator's decision suspending him for the 2014 season and postseason.

Details were first reported Tuesday by Yahoo Sports and later confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

The union and Rodriguez spokesman Ron Berkowitz declined comment.

All players in the major leagues are members of the union and pay \$65 daily in dues, or \$11,895 if a player is in the big leagues for a full season. Baseball's labor contract specifies the union is "the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all major league players."

The union will incur costs of defending the lawsuit by the

New York Yankees third baseman, who claimed in the suit it "breached its duty of fair representation to Mr. Rodriguez." The union retained Michael Rubin and Barbara J. Chisholm of the San Francisco firm Altshuler Berzon to defend it, according to a court filing Tuesday.

Rodriguez was suspended for 211 games by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig on Aug. 5, and the union filed a grievance



Rodriguez

contending the discipline was without "just cause." The penalty was reduced to

162 games plus the 2014 postseason by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who concluded Rodriguez violated baseball's drug agreement each

year from 2010-12 and twice obstructed MLB's investigation in violation of the sport's labor contract.

Rodriguez agreed to a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees after the 2007 season. Horowitz's decision cost Rodriguez \$22.13 million of his \$25 million salary this year; the three-time AL MVP is owed \$61 million by the Yankees from 2015-17.

Metal detectors at big league ballparks by '15

NEW YORK (AP)—Entering a big league ballpark will be a bit like going through an airport by 2015.

Major League Baseball has told its 30 teams they must implement security screening for fans by then, either with hand-held metal detection or walk-through magnetometers.

"This procedure, which results from MLB's continuing work with the Department of Homeland Security to standardize security practices across the game, will be in addition to bag checks that are now uniform throughout MLB," baseball spokesman Michael Teevan said Tuesday.

The Seattle Mariners announced Tuesday that fans

entering Safeco Field will have to walk through metal detectors starting with this year's opener.

Boston, the New York Mets, Oakland, Pittsburgh and San Francisco were among the teams that experimented with screening at times last year. Security gained more intense focus after three people were killed and more than 260 wounded in when two bombs were set off at the Boston Marathon finish line.

"We conducted testing of these measures at the All-Star game and at both World Series venues last year, and we were pleased that it was effective and received without issue from fans," Teevan said.

MLB is being assisted by CEIA USA Ltd., which manu-

factures walk-through metal detectors, and the security company GSIS.

Big league teams have generally limited bags that fans bring to 16 inches by 16 inches by 8 inches.

In an effort to increase security this season, the NFL limited the size and type of bags fans can bring to games. With the exception of medically necessary items, only clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bags no larger than 12 inches by 6 inches by 12 inches have been allowed. One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags also were permitted along with clear plastic bags approximately the size of someone's hand.

Nadal avoids top player exodus from Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal avoided the top player exodus that claimed two-time defending women's champion Victoria Azarenka in the preceding match on center court for a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Grigor Dimitrov in the Australian Open quarterfinals Wednesday.

Nadal, who received treatment several times for a nasty-looking blister on the palm of his left hand, advanced to a semifinal match against the winner of the marquee quarterfinal between Andy Murray and Roger Federer later Wednesday.

Azarenka won't have a semifinal date. No. 5-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska stopped Azarenka's 18-match winning run at Melbourne Park with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-0 win earlier in the day.

That means both defending champions went out in the quarterfinals—Novak Djokovic lost to Stan Wawrinka on Tuesday, ending his bid for a fourth consecutive men's title. Azarenka had been aiming for three in a row. Other women's title contenders Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova didn't even make it as far as the quarterfinals.

Nadal won on his fourth match point on Dimitrov's serve in 3 hours, 37 minutes, a long time after his celebration following a second-set tiebreaker that more resembled a victory dance. He stayed in a squat position af-



Rafael Nadal of Spain, left, talks with Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the net after Nadal won their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014.

ter his winning cross-court shot and then pumped his chest out three times.

There were more muted celebrations after a tiebreaker in the third set, with Nadal acknowledging Dimitrov let him off the hook with a wide forehand.

"I was so lucky," he said. "It gives me the opportunity to be in semifinals of a tournament I love

so much."

Nadal fended off three set points in the third set, including two in the tiebreaker, and won on his first set point.

He went up 2-0 in the fourth when he hit a passing backhand down the line on break point with Dimitrov standing at the net. At the end, Dimitrov appeared to wipe tears from his

eyes with a towel as he walked off Rod Laver Arena.

Azarenka's defeat left 2011 French Open champion Li Na as the only major winner remaining in the women's draw. Radwanska next plays No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova, who won the last eight games in a one-hour, 6-3, 6-0 quarterfinal rout of No. 11-seeded Simona Halep earlier Wednesday.

Li, a two-time finalist in Australia, will play 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard in the other semifinal.

Radwanska played drop shots and slices from the baseline, forcing Azarenka to come forward and then lobbing or passing her. She hit touch volleys with calm precision, and instinctively anticipated Azarenka's shots.

She didn't fall into big-swinging rallies against the second-seeded Azarenka, either, continually mixing it up and saving the power for when she needed it.

"She was aggressive. She was making everything. She was guessing right," Azarenka said.

"I was just playing a little bit too predictably.

Radwanska was also safe on her own serve, dropping just two games while breaking Azarenka six times. She hadn't beaten Azarenka in their last seven matches.

"I said to myself one day I have to have one step forward and do the semifinal, and I'm so, so happy that I did it finally," Radwanska said of her first run to the semis of a major on hard courts. "I really had nothing to lose. She was defending the title, not me."

Marianas Coffee Trail Run early bird deadline today

The 7th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Saipan kicks off this Saturday, Jan. 25, at 6:30am from the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Early bird registration fees by Jan. 23 are \$10 for children ages 12 and under, \$15 for athletes ages 13-18 years old, and \$25 for participants ages 19 and older. Registration forms for the event are also available at the Marianas Visitors Authority website Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com under the event date or at the MVA office in San Jose.

Latecomers can still register up until 5:30am on race day for an additional \$10 over the early bird fee. Walkers are welcomed to participate in the 10K short course.

The event features a 20K trail run and a 10K short course from the beach at American Memorial Park in Garapan to the top of Mt. Tapochao, the peak of the mountain range originating in the Marianas Trench. The course boasts some of the most picturesque views of Saipan and traverses wild coffee plantations of the Japanese colonial period and the newer plantations of the Marianas Coffee Co.

Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place in male and female divisions. All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of participation, Marianas Coffee, and an invitation to the awards banquet following the race at the Micro Beach Pavilion at 11:30am.

Race co-sponsors included

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

of the third inning, allowed only two hits and had three strikeouts.

Agda also pitched for the Enforcers against the Red Sox and nearly shut down the defending champions, giving up only one hit and no runs in 2.1 innings pitched. Secharmidal

took over and denied the Red Sox's bid for the elusive first run, allowing no hits, walking one, and striking out four.

The Red Sox finally ended the drought at the bottom of the sixth with the Enforcers bringing Babauta to the mound. Tindin Leon Guerrero, who recorded one of the Red Sox's two singles in the sixth, scored off an Enforcers' error

at third, but he failed to start the team's rally, as JPO scored four runs earlier at the top for the 8-run lead.

Before their four-run top of the sixth, the Enforcers notched three in the fourth and saved one run each in the first and fifth to gain cushion against the Red Sox. The Enforcers got most of their runs off the Red Sox's mistakes.

Meanwhile, the Red Sox absorbed another loss when it bowed to the Falcons in last Monday's third and final game.

The Falcons were leading the Red Sox, 10-2, at the top of the sixth inning when it rained and league officials decided to call it a game several minutes later. League rules state that a leading team can be declared

the winner in a rained-out game provided at least five complete innings had been played.

The Falcons dominated the Red Sox when they scored four runs each in the first and fifth inning and added two more in the sixth. The Red Sox, on the other hand, struggled on offense, getting one run each in the first and third.

FTMP

From Page 28

only one field goal in the majority of the opening frame. He then bounced back in the second half, firing timely baskets that halted Rollers 3's repeated comeback bids.

Rollers 3 remained afloat after converting four straight triples in the closing minutes of the match. Christian Morales had 17 for Rollers 3, which also

drew 16 points from Wilfredo Francisco.

Rollers 2 86, Rollers 5 59

In the curtain-raiser, Rollers 2 bombarded Rollers 5 with treys en route to the 25-point win.

Rollers 2 nailed 17 triples with Mike Espinosa and Jun Fidelino alternately hitting shots beyond the arc. Fidelino finished with 36 points, with 33 of them coming from downtown, while Espinosa logged 34 and

had five triples. Mike Cenir was the third double figure scorer for Rollers 2 with his 13 markers.

With Fidelino and Espinosa on fire, Rollers 2 built a 57-29 halftime lead. Rollers 2 drilled 14 triples in the first half against only four from Rollers 5, which got 17 and 14 points from Ylac Caracut and Emmanuel Cobacha, respectively.

First Game

Rollers 2 86 – Fidelino

36, Espinosa 34, Cenir 14, Subang 1.

Rollers 5 59 – Caracut 17, Cobacha 14, Yu 9, Dela Cruz 6, Mamaril 5, Tengco 4, Pangelinan 3.

Scoring by halves: 57-29, 86-59.

Second Game

FTMP 76 – Montes 29, Lixing 15, Omengkar 14, A. Francisco 14, Del Rosario 2.

Dream Team 75 – Ito 23,

Williams 15, Pagarao 15, Javier 6, Alegre 6, Abrams 6, Pena 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-33, 76-75.

Third Game

Rollers 1 69 – Factor 19, Arciaga 18, Ano 12, Yu 9, Camacho 3, Pangelinan 2.

Rollers 3 64 – Morales 17, Rios 16, Francisco 11, Cruz 9, De Luna 5, Kwon 4.

Scoring by halves: 33-29, 69-64.

SBC

From Page 28

a big improvement for SBC/J's Restaurant, which placed fourth in the previous contest.

SBC/J's Restaurant this time took the championship after earning a 44.5-27.5 record, five wins ahead of runner-up D'Unknown (39.5-32.7 slate). Team Mobil and IT&E rounded out the Top 4 after carding 39-33 and 37-35 win-loss stand-

ings, respectively. Completing the rankings were Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (36-36), Graphics (36-36), One Shot (28-44), and PIN.net (28-44).

The Top 4 teams were presented with cash prizes during the awards ceremony last Saturday at Kanoa Resort. SBC/J's Restaurant was also awarded the championship trophy, while other team and individual plums were handed out at the weekend event.

SBC/J's Restaurant got four more team awards after winning the high game scratch (1,111 pinfalls) and high game with handicap contests (1,167) against IT&E (1,029 and 1,165) and high series scratch (3,090) and high series with handicap (3,258) over PIN.net (2,810) and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (3,211), respectively.

In the individual categories, Talavera and Ruselle Zapanta of Fiesta Resort and Spa split the

four awards. Talavera topped the high game scratch and high series scratch with his 285 and 690, beating Fiesta's Raymond Zapanta (278 and 689). Ruselle also prevailed over his sibling in the high game with handicap, 291-188 and high series with handicap, 720-719.

In the women's division, Graphics' Gina Sablan reigned supreme in the high game scratch (244) and high game with handicap (274), while

One Shot's Gloria Omechelang and D'Unknown's Ron Cal prevailed in the high series scratch (585) and high series with handicap (681), respectively.

In the high average races, Talavera ruled the men's division after posting 199.76, while Mersai won in the women's category with her 173.33. Mersai was also named the most improved bowler, sharing the same honors with IT&E's Bernard Paraiso.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	20	.500	—
Brooklyn	18	22	.450	2
New York	15	26	.366	5½
Boston	14	29	.326	7½
Philadelphia	13	28	.317	7½
Southeast Division				
Miami	30	12	.714	—
Atlanta	21	19	.525	8
Washington	20	20	.500	9
Charlotte	18	25	.419	12½
Orlando	11	31	.262	19
Central Division				
Indiana	33	7	.825	—
Chicago	20	20	.500	13
Detroit	17	24	.415	16½
Cleveland	15	26	.366	18½
Milwaukee	7	33	.175	26
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	32	9	.780	—
Houston	28	15	.651	5
Dallas	25	18	.581	8
Memphis	20	20	.500	11½
New Orleans	16	25	.390	16
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	32	10	.762	—
Portland	31	11	.738	1
Denver	20	20	.500	11
Minnesota	20	21	.488	11½
Utah	14	29	.326	18½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	29	14	.674	—
Golden State	26	17	.605	3
Phoenix	23	17	.575	4½
L.A. Lakers	16	26	.381	12½
Sacramento	15	25	.375	12½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

50th PBA Saturday Night League Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Most Improved Player Bernard Paraiso, right, of IT&E shakes hand with Philippine Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano after receiving his trophy and cash prize during the awards ceremony for the 50th PBA Saturday Night League last Saturday at Kanoa Resort.



Graphics' Gina Sablan gets the high game scratch first place prize.



Most Improved Player Kathy Mersai of SBC/J's Restaurant receives her prizes from Philippine Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano.



SBC/J's Restaurant's Robert Talavera gets the high average award in the men's division.



One Shot's Gloria Omechelang takes the high series scratch first place award.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Ruselle Zapanta wins the high series with handicap contest.



Tess Fabie receives the third place trophy on behalf of Mobil.



Ramil De Leon receives the second prize in the high scratch game for IT&E.



D'Unknown members pose with their runner-up trophy.



IT&E bowlers pose with their fourth place prize.



**Durant scores 46,
leads Thunder past
Trail Blazers**
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Carroll says
Sherman sorry rant
overshadowed win**
PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Enforcers, Falcons ease past foes



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Talaabwogh Falcons batter gets ready to swing during the top of the first innings of their Junior League game against the Red Sox last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers and Talaabwogh Falcons coasted to easy victories in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Enforcers bagged twin wins to take the early lead in the six-team group. They first triumphed against the defending champions Red Sox, 9-1, in the Junior League opener last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and then topped the Comets, 6-1, last Monday.

Against the Comets, the Enforcers were on target early, scoring three runs apiece in the first and second inning to take control of the match. The Comets never threatened the Enforcers, as after gaining one run in the second inning, the former went scoreless in the last five innings.



Virgil Secharmidal put the Enforcers on the board at the bottom of the first, as he singled, advanced to second off a passed ball, and made it all the way home off Comets errors. The Enforcers then moved up, 3-0, after Ethan Babauta blasted a two-run double, and got three more runs in the second off the Comets' two miscues and a passed ball.

The Comets answered with only one unearned run in the second then struggled against Kier Agda's pitching in the last five innings. Agda, who came in for Secharmidal at the start

See ENFORCERS on Page 26

FTMP boosts playoff hopes



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dream Team's Irish Pagarao, left, and Joy Pena, watch an FTMP player go up for a layup during their first round meeting in the Sun Palace caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Funky Town Monkey Pimps improved its playoff chances, following a 76-75 win over Dream Team in the boys division of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

FTMP withstood Dream Team's second-half rally to eke out the 1-point win and move up to an even 4-4 record for fourth place in the six-team field. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and with Rollers 1 (8-1), Rollers 2 (7-2), and Rollers 3 (7-2) securing the first three semis berths, FTMP is left to battle the last ticket against Rollers 4 (3-5). Dream Team and Rollers 5 are out of the playoff race as they hold 0-7 and 0-8 records, respectively.

Four of the only five players who suited up for FTMP finished in twin digits to deny the all-female crew of Dream Team

entry to the win column. Tristan Montes had 29 points, Dai Lixing added 15, and Kautong Omengkar and Alvin Francisco chipped in 14 apiece. All four drained one basket each in the homestretch to thwart Dream Team with Lixing making the last and insurance baskets.

Kyla Ito led Dream Team's losing cause with her 23 points, while Lilly Williams and Irish Pagarao contributed 15 apiece.

Rollers 1 69, Rollers 3 64

In other results, Rollers 1 took the solo lead after defeating Rollers 3 in the third and final game of the night.

Prince Factor anchored Rollers 1 to victory, as he scored 20 points, including 3 of the team's last 5 points. Mike Arciaga and Jaron Ano provided enough support, adding 18 and 12, respectively.

The trio combined for 28 points in the first half to lift Rollers 1 to a 33-29 advantage. Factor had two triples to start the first half, but was held to

See FTMP on Page 26

SBC/J's Restaurant finishes on top



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SBC/J's Restaurant players pose with their championship trophies during the awards ceremony for the Philippine Bowling Association's Saturday Night League last Saturday at the Kanoa Resort. Also in the photo is PBA official Ador Dimaano, standing left.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SBC/J's Restaurant clinched the championship in the 50th Philippine Bowling Association Saturday Night League, defeating seven other teams in the 18-week



Playing for the champion squad were Edward Baluyan, Alex Castro, Roger De Guzman, Simeon Eparwa, Percy Omechelang, Paul Pangilinan, Robert Talavera, Dianne Chong, and Kathy Mersai. The title finish in the 50th season and 25 years of the league was

See SBC on Page 26